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Gaddafi: the temptation is to do exactly nothing

DIE ZEIT

It has become clear that Libya was at least indirectly involved in the Palestinian attacks at Vienna and Rome airports in which 19 died and more than 100 injured.

Despite this, the temptation is great to react in the usual way to outrages by the Libyan head of state, Colonel Gaddafi — that is by doing nothing at all. Bonn is no exception to this attitude.

Although Gaddafi did not plan or direct these terrorist attacks himself, there is evidence that he was one of its financial backers.

Libya's press agency said the bloodbaths were heroic acts. Colonel Gaddafi himself declared that the attacks "could be justified".

So far the response by the West has been restrained. Nobody really knows how to get the better of the Libyans. Perhaps with military punitive action?

There is plenty of this sort of speculation, encouraged by the news coverage on US television.

Yet again, the Sixth Fleet is steaming its way along the coast of North Africa.

On the one hand, however, retalintory action has never been able to put an end to terrorism, a fact of which Israel, for example, is only too well aware.

As Mahatma Gandhi once remarked, revenge in line with the motto "an eye for an eye" only makes people blind, and there are plenty of voluntary terrorist killers in the Middle East blinded by fanaticism.

On the other hand, even a large-scale American punitive expedition against Libya would only play into the hands of the terrorists by nipping the peace process in the Middle East in the bud.

Other Arab states would then have no choice but to declare their solidarity with their unpopular Arab "brother" Gaddafi.

To stand back and do nothing, however, is certainly not enough.

This also applies to the Reagan administration, whose permanent threats to take revenge for international terrorist attacks have manoeuvred it into an awkward position.

Any renunication of retaliatory operations now tends to look as if the Americans are backing out of their commitments.

Gaddafi may try and capitalise on the fact that he has unmasked the United States as a paper tiger.

High-sounding words with nothing behind them only emphasise weakness.

America's allies would also run the risk of looking like appeasers if they try to sell their helplessness as a policy line.

The total economic boycott now imposed on Libya by Washington would seem to be more an expression of this helplessness than a tried and tested antidote.

In view of the fact that a boycott against Ian Smith's oil-sparse Rhodesia was unable to bring that country to its knees, the chances of achieving a similar goal against Gaddafi's oil-rich Libya seem very slim indeed.

What is more, almost 15 per cent of the oil imports of the Federal Republic of Germany come from Libya, and between 1,500 and 2,000 West Germans are still working there.

Even the United States, which already imposed trade sanctions against Libya (population: three million) in 1982, has 1,500 US specialists working for leading oil companies in Libya.

The imposition of economic sanctions by other countries would not only be ineffective, it would do more harm to the "punisher" than to the country to be punished.

Nevertheless, turning a blind eye, merely returning to business as usual, or passing the awkward issue on to European Community committees for its bureaucratic burial will not do.

American contemporary historian, Walter Laqueur, already said many years ago that "the only known way of reducing the probability of terror is to reduce its causes, evil and frustrations."

The West, especially Ronald Reagan, has missed many opportunities of bringing the conflicting parties in the Middle East closer to a compromise.

To merely accept Gaddafi's latest insult, however, would be tantamount to giving encouragement to the adversaries of the peace process.

Standing by and doing nothing means joining forces with Gaddafi. But what can be done?

Western governments should deny Tripoli their political respect. They should opt for a political boycott, making it clear that Gaddafi is *out of favour*.

And there are means of effectively implementing such a boycott.

- The ambassadors should be withdrawn from Tripoli; chargés d'affaires would suffice.
- No more new state-backed export credit guarantees should be granted for exports to Libya by the Hermes agency (total guarantees at present: DM11bn; *industry would then have to move into the Libyan market at its own risk*.
- If there is reason to believe that Libyan diplomats transport weapons for terrorist attacks in their luggage, they should be deprived of their diplomatic immunity — even if the luggage of our own diplomats then has to be searched.
- The flights to Libya by government-owned airlines such as Lufthansa should be discontinued. The heads of state and government at the Bonn summit meeting in 1978 already declared that they would discontinue flights to any country which refuses to extradite or take legal action against hijackers.

Should a country which encourages murder in airports be treated any better?

Libya is not the only country which violates a basic principle of the fragile international order, which is that states have the monopoly of the legitimised use of force and that this should not be undermined by terrorists. Nevertheless, this cannot excuse Libya.

The influence, the political credibility and the claims to moral leadership of the West in the Middle East would certainly be in a bad way if its only response to Gaddafi's latest challenge is American sabre-rattling and the shrugging of European shoulders.

Christoph Bertram

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 10 January 1985)



Exchange over sanctions

Germany is not willing to take part in US sanctions against Libya, but "fully understands" the reasons behind them, said American ambassador Burt after meeting Bonn Foreign Minister Genscher in Bonn. (Photo: dpa)



IN THIS ISSUE

Germany's close business ties with Libya

German exporters, especially plant and equipment manufacturers, have been doing good business with Libya for many years.

Most German companies operating in Libya feel that business flourishes most if the business links between the two countries are kept out of the limelight.

Statistics give an idea of how close these economic ties are.

The Federal Republic is Libya's second most important trading partner after Italy. Spain and France are third and fourth.

The total value of German exports to Libya in 1984 amounted to DM2.3bn. Up until November last year the corresponding figure was DM1.4bn.

Plant construction, mechanical engineering and the associated supplies of electrical engineering and steel products account for 60 per cent of these exports.

Lorries, construction vehicles and cranes account for 15 per cent. The rest mainly consisted of chemicals and foodstuffs.

The large-scale building projects of previous years have now come to an end.

Most leading German plant manufacturers have links with Libya.

The construction of a fertiliser factory in Marsa Brega and a chemical plant in Abu Kammash is almost completed.

A methanol plant in Marsa Brega and

Continued on page 4

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Waiting for a hand to emerge as the Iberian cards go into the pack

Hannoversche Allgemeine

The European Community with Spain and Portugal is now made up of 12 of the richest and most powerful states on earth. It has a population of 320 million, a third more than the USA.

It is far and away the largest commercial power in the world. Over 33 per cent of worldwide imports and exports are to or from the twelve. They import and export three times more than the United States.

The Community gains much culturally, politically and economically with the two Iberian countries, both rich in tradition.

But opinion in Brussels is undecided about whether enlarging the Community to the south has weakened or strengthened it as a whole, whether it will open up more opportunities or create more difficulties.

Size alone does not necessarily mean viability, vitality and a future.

Economically, Spain and Portugal have not come with empty hands. The time is long since past when it can be said, as French author Alexandre Dumas once wrote: "Africa begins at the Pyrenees."

Spain has a gross national product of DM460 billion and is one of the 10 to 12 largest largest industrial countries in the world.

The Iberian market, irrespective of its problems, has an enormous potential for development, and opens up new growth opportunities for the Community's trade and industry.

Furthermore the two former colonial powers are a bridge to the Spanish and Portuguese speaking states of the Latin American subcontinent.

West German industry appears to be developing greater interest in the Iberian market. A sign of this is the news that Madrid has said it is prepared to release Spanish car maker Seat from its debts. This clears the way for Volkswagen to acquire a majority interest.

Nevertheless it is difficult to assess yet the economic consequences of the expansion southwards, the costs and the risks, both for the two new members and for the Commmunity as a whole.

The transitional period for the two Iberian states extends from seven to a maximum of ten years, but problems resulting from the expansion are already apparent.

Before Spain and Portugal were officially an unholy row broke out among members over the budget and the cost of joining. This spilled over into a constitutional conflict.

A few days ago the Council of Ministers placed its complaints about the European Parliament before the European Court. The Strasbourg Parliament had introduced higher costs into the 1986 budget to cover Spain and Portugal than had been expected by member countries.

For some time now one thing has been certain — the desire to have Spain and Portugal in on political grounds cannot be achieved for nothing. For far too long ministers responsible for this expansion have closed their eyes to this fact.

Spain and Portugal need aid and support from their European partners. Both countries have to deal with enormous structural problems.

Portugal is by far and away the poorest and economically weakest country in the Community.

Spanish unemployment is 22.2 per cent, worryingly high. Inflation in both countries is much higher than in the rest of the Community. In Spain it is 9 per cent, in Portugal 21 per cent. Their balance of trade deficits are disastrous.

The two will expand the "Club of the Poor". Both are much more agriculture-oriented than the other members.

Figures show that 23 per cent of Portugal's labour force works in agriculture and 18 per cent of Spain's.

Spain increases the Community's arable land area by 30 per cent and the agricultural workforce by 25 per cent. With Portugal, the number of agricultural workers increases by about 50 per cent.

It will be hard for both countries to make the necessary adjustments and structural changes, irrespective of the transitional period, and although Spain does have modern, fast growing and technically highly developed sectors with foreign capital participation, and there has been diversification in economically weak Portugal. But there is no way round modernisation if the Iberians do not want to be left behind.

The greatest headache for the Community as a result of the expansion southwards is the agricultural consequences of the move.

Spain produces little meat, milk and grain. There are measures for a transitional ten years to protect Spanish producers of these commodities.

And Portugal is a long way away from being able to feed itself. In the long term this will open up a rewarding market for the agricultural countries in the north.

Despite the transitional period, however, the problems concerning surpluses of olive oil, fruit, vegetables and wine are likely to be explosive. Olive oil over-production alone is expected to be at the 230,000 tons level. The Community will have a degree of self-sufficiency of 122 per cent.

The same is true for fruit and vegetables. French fruit growers in the south are particularly fearful of a flood of fruit from Spain and Portugal over the Pyrenees. Spain has a degree of self-sufficiency in fruit of 235 per cent.

Officials in Brussels reckon that the cost of the over-production expected in the Community in the first year of a Comunity of twelve will be increased to DM3.6 billion, twice as much as the costs incurred by over-production among the Community of ten.

What has not been taken into account as well is that Spain has an enormous not-fully exploited arable land production potential.

If the Community does not apply the brakes in time it is feared Spanish farmers will take full advantage of the opportunity and bury the Community under citrus fruits, olives and vegetables and drown it in a wine lake.

The Spaniards are major wine producers. They will produce at least 24 per cent of Europe's wine.

A particularly difficult point in the entry negotiations was fishing. It is an extremely important industry for Spain (in Galicia and the Basque provinces) and Portugal. Their entry doubles the number of fishermen in the Community.

The Spanish fishing fleet is the largest in the world. Nevertheless the Spaniards have to import fish.

The enormous Spanish fleet and limitations on fishing grounds available to Spanish vessels will be an increasing problem in the future. Undoubtedly this problem will call for expensive and essential restructuring measures.

In the entry negotiations it was agreed that on admission Spain should be included in the whole Community market, its structure and foreign policy. In a number of sectors, however, there are transitional periods.

The reciprocal arrangement was that Spain agreed to limited and controlled access to Community territorial waters and fishing grounds. A maximum number of fishing vessels with access to specific fishing zones has been laid down.

As regards industry and manufactured products the Spaniards and Portuguese have quite different problems.

Spanish industrial production, until now shielded and protected, is 60 per cent below average Community production levels. Portugal presents an even worse picture.

Volume restrictions on exports from the Community to Spain that have applied in the past have been lifted for the most part on Spain's entry into the Common Market.

Spain does have a breathing space of four years on a whole range of goods, however — among other items tractors and colour television sets — before the restrictions have to be lifted.

Liberalisation of trade will only be gradually introduced because of the weaknesses of Spanish and Portuguese industry that make it uncompetitive and in need of a period of protection so as to adjust.

Customs duties will be withdrawn over a period of seven years in eight stages. In both countries, however, customs duties are to be reduced by at least a half between now and 1989.

This will probably make a significant difference to West German car exports. Madrid has already lifted *controls on* the quota of car imports with limited customs duties for Common Market car manufacturers.

The critical sectors on both sides are those where their is over-capacity — in steel production, shipbuilding and textiles manufacture. Trade in these sectors will be kept under surveillance for three or four years. Spain can apply quotas on cotton goods.

Spain and Portugal must limit their steel exports to the Community for three years, but during this period, contrary to the position prevailing among the ten, they can subsidies their domestic industries so as to adjust to steel policies.

In view of high unemployment levels among the 10, there has been a temporary limitation on the right to freedom of movement within the Community that is a basic right of the new Common Market citizens.

Spain and Portugal will only gradually feel the advantages of joining.

They will instantly feel, often painfully perhaps, the full force of adjusting to the icy winds of European competition, increased living costs, structural changes and fundamental reforms.

Thomas Gack

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 4 January 1986)

Budget row is referred to European court

European members states are taking the Community's Parliament to the European Court in Luxembourg on the issue of the 1986 budget.

It totals DM75 billion, up 20 per cent on 1975.

Seven countries, a majority, refused to accept the Parliament's decision to increase the draft bill by a good DM1 billion.

The governments say sums for social and regional spending had been cut and should not have been brought back.

The 1986 budget is about 20 per cent higher than in 1985. Some of the increase is for the enlargement of the Community: Spain and Portugal will be net recipients in the first year of membership.

This is the third extension of the Community. It must have been known all along that it would be expensive.

At the summit meeting in Fontainebleau in June 1984 they decided to increase contributions to the Community from Value Added Tax (VAT) by 1.4 per cent.

This decision went into effect at the beginning of 1986, giving the Community an additional maximum of DM12 billion.

It is now feared that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which now swallows up two-thirds of Community funds, will get even more expensive.

There is little hope that Agriculture Ministers will agree on cost-cutting CAP reforms.

West Germany will remain far and away the largest net contributor. It benefits in other ways, however, mainly in trade surpluses with other member states. In the future, this internal Community trade will account for more than a half of West German exports.

As the largest contributor of funds, Bonn should press for sweeping, effective controls of the financial behaviour of Community organisations.

The 1984 report by the auditor-general's office, which has just been issued, again has a lot of criticism of Community book-keeping.

However, faults and weaknesses have also been pointed out in the past without leading to fundamental changes.

In a Community of 12, taxpayers' money must be handled more sensibly and more economically.

Hans-Peter Ott

(Kieler Nachrichten, 30 December 1985)

The German Tribune

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HOME AFFAIRS

1985 — a year which boosted coalition election hopes

Chancellor Kohl's middle-of-the-road CDU/CSU-FDP coalition has ended 1985 with an impressive track record in economic and stability policy.

This is important for the government, because this year there are *Land* assembly elections in Lower Saxony, Bavaria and Hamburg and, at the beginning of next year, the general election.

Germans are back among the world's leaders in stable purchasing power, while the economic recovery begun in 1983 continued so impressively in 1984 and 1985 that further momentum is expected in 1986.

Pension fund finances are assured for the time being and government spending is slowly regaining an even keel.

At the 1985 Western economic summit in Bonn the hosts were in a position to portray themselves as an internationally competitive industrial country well on the way to catching up with Japan and the United States and gaining a lead in some sectors.

In GNP terms the Federal Republic of Germany has led the world in research expenditure for several years, and the investment is starting to pay dividends.

It isn't all silver lining and no cloud, of course. The construction and steel industries are hardest hit by structural change, with automation and computerisation worsening matters.

There is an ongoing trend toward service and information industries.

1985 was a record year for business bankruptcies and firms going out of business. This was because of a climate of even fiercer competition and as a result of undercapitalisation in the past.

Unemployment continued to cast the darkest cloud at the year's end, with no-one, not even the Opposition, claiming to have swift solutions.

In the long term the only hope of reducing unemployment is a combination of continued economic recovery, moderate wage claims and the fact that by the end of the decade far fewer school-leavers will be in the job market.

Chinks of light can already be seen in the cloud. On average 200,000 new jobs a year are being created, with last year's total possibly numbering 300,000 and a striking decline in the number of workers on short time.

The year ahead might end with the first modest but real decline in unemployment in absolute terms.

Over 90 per cent of school-leavers and newcomers to the job market were found work in 1985: an impressive performance by both German industry and officialdom.

Persistent unemployment in a period of economic recovery was, so to speak, the bridge on which government, unions and employers met for talks again after years of silence.

Their talks will continue in 1986 despite the heavier burden imposed by election campaigning and proposed amendments to unemployment benefit regulations.

The government says the amendments will ensure that the Federal Labour Office in Nuremberg, which runs the unemployment insurance scheme, remains impartial in industrial disputes.

The unions say the changes will jeopardise the right to strike! Ideology, not objectivity, is the keynote of the debate.

The outstanding domestic achievement of the Bonn government and coalition was the first stage of a two-stage tax reform package that will ease the burden on taxpayers by DM20bn.

These tax cuts are expected to lend further momentum to economic recovery in the year ahead.

Billed as the most substantial tax cuts ever in the history of the Federal Republic, they will, it is said, be dwarfed by an even more far-reaching tax reform package planned for the next legislative period (1987-1991).

This further package of tax cuts will, it is rumoured, ease the burden on taxpayers by DM40bn or more. But it is still early days for this project, and the 1987 general election must first be won.

Anniversaries predominated in foreign affairs in 1985, especially the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe.

Federal President Richard von Weizsäcker's anniversary address to the Bonn Bundestag was well received all over the world.

Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand joined hands at an anniversary ceremony in Verdun.

Chancellor Kohl and President Reagan visited a German war cemetery in Bitburg and the Belsen concentration camp memorial to Nazi victims.

Anniversary celebrations were accompanied by an East Bloc campaign accusing the Federal Republic of revanchism, a campaign triggered by ill-advised theorising on Germany's borders by refugee organisations.

They are organisations representing Germans expelled after the war from the Sudeten German areas of Czechoslovakia and the former German Eastern territories that now form part of Poland and the Soviet Union.

Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz

Revanchism allegations and the slogans that gave rise to them are a part of reality 15 years after the Moscow and Warsaw treaties.

Relations between Bonn and the East Bloc may grow steadily more "normal," but old wounds on both sides can still hurt.

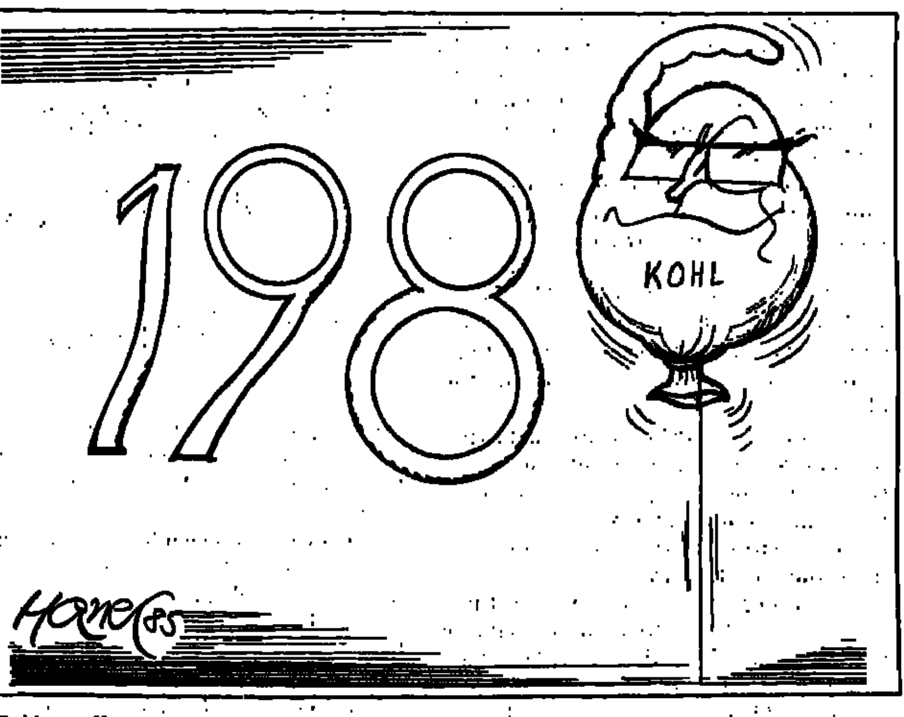
Thirty years after the resumption of diplomatic ties between Germany and the Soviet Union, relations between Bonn and Moscow stayed in a fairly low key and concentrated mainly on economic affairs.

Mr Gorbachov, the new Soviet leader, concentrated on the United States and kept Soviet allies on a short leash. The Geneva summit held pride of place both in world affairs and in Bonn.

Chancellor Kohl's government, having done its utmost to ensure that the summit went ahead and was a success, could fairly feel entitled to a share of the credit.

Time didn't stand still in intra-German affairs either. Bonn and East Berlin held talks at many levels and progress was made even without the long-overdue spectacle of a visit to the Federal Republic by GDR leader Erich Honecker.

In European affairs 1985 was for Bonn a year of struggle over European Community finances, Common Agricultural Policy, Community enlargement and reform and, above all, vehicle emission regulations.



Taking off (Cartoon: Hanel/Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger)

In the catalytic converter debate the Federal government may have taken a knock or two domestically, but in the European and environmental protection context it can fairly claim to have finally achieved some measure of success.

A year ago German carmakers forecast serious inroads into sales, production and jobs in the motor industry; by the end of 1985 these tales of woe had long been forgotten.

Franco-German relations were, inevitably, strained (but not incurably) by the SDI debate, which overshadowed everything else.

France is a nuclear have, Germany a have-not protected by the US nuclear shield. Their views are bound to differ.

On balance, however, progress was made last year in both Franco-German and European relations. Compromises often seem miraculous after all the hue and cry.

SDI, the prevailing issue for the past nine months, has totally split both government and Opposition, imposing a severe strain on coalition ties.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, FDP, is afraid the damage SDI might do to Ostpolitik will more than outweigh any benefit it may bring.

The Chancellor and his Foreign Minister agree on the need to maintain the strategic unity of the Western alliance, which is tantamount to a go-ahead for SDI research.

Yet despite jawboning by Moscow, the SDI research programme in no way makes strategic conclusions that can only be reached by Nato as a whole a foregone conclusion.

Mid-term state assembly election results were extremely poor for the Bonn Chancellor's Christian Democrats. Their fine showing in Berlin was no consolation for their losses in the Saar and in North Rhine-Westphalia.

This mid-term poll punishment was more than the usual swing of the pendulum. The CDU rightly saw it as the voters' response to government failures, to disputes within the CDU/CSU and to unfulfilled hopes of what Chancellor Kohl's coalition had promised would be a change for the better.

Yet it was another matter by the year's end, with all polls forecasting a steady 52 per cent for the CDU/CSU-FDP coalition and no serious challenger to Helmut Kohl at the helm despite occasional dissatisfaction with the Chancellor in CDU ranks.

Herr Kohl and his Christian Democrats seem to have emerged from the mid-1985 slump in their fortunes. The Chanoellor is his usual self again, exuding optimism and self-confidence.

His coalition allies, the Free Democrats, had occasional difficulty in convincing voters who led the FDP after its leadership changed hands at the Saarbrücken party conference.

Economic Affairs Minister Martin Bangemann may now be the FDP's leader, but his predecessor, Foreign Minister Genscher, doesn't always seem to say the same thing.

The FDP's leadership problem now seems to be more of a Genscher problem, *with Herr Bangemann* — burly, easy-going and never afraid to speak his mind — finally appearing to have a beneficial effect on the FDP's public image.

Herr Bangemann himself certainly has nothing to do with the longstanding feud between CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss and the FDP.

In the SPD the nomination of North Rhine-Westphalian Premier Johannes Rau as Shadow Chancellor has been the overriding issue.

Popular though he may be personally, especially after retaining the Social Democrats' absolute majority on the Rhine and in the Ruhr, his promotion to major league has been anything but plain sailing.

Since winning the state assembly elections in North Rhine-Westphalia and the Saar the Social Democrats have felt their fortunes have been improving.

Herr Rau's gaffes have tended to put a damper on their enthusiasm, and some Social Democrats are wondering whether he is the man for the job.

They are taking a closer look at the Greens, the ecological, anti-nuclear party he would soonest see relegated to insignificance.

There is a steadily wider gap between the Shadow Chancellor and the majority in an SPD split on economic, foreign and security policy that would sooner see a left-wing SPD in joint harness with the Greens.

Hesse, where Social Democrat Holger Börner heads an SPD-Green coalition government, weighs heavily on Johannes Rau.

The Greens can look back on a year of real stress. They failed to poll the five per cent needed for election to the state assembly in both North Rhine-Westphalia and the Saar, while in Hesse the

Continued on page 5

■ THE GOVERNMENT

Free Democrats let loose with a tactical volley

Hannoversche Allgemeine

The Bonn coalition of Christian and Free Democrats is in the throes of a crisis that has been brewing since long before it came to a head at the traditional Epiphany gathering of Free Democrats in Stuttgart.

The coalition has been in a precarious state for the past three years, muddling through to the best of its ability.

In Stuttgart a handful of FDP mastiffs sank their teeth into the Chancellor's CDU, provoking the Chancellor into issuing an insulted rejoinder from his holiday retreat..

It was a display of propaganda fireworks that had spent months impatiently waiting for an opportunity to effectively unleash its pent-up force.

The coalition crisis began the moment the coalition was formed. It wasn't really a coalition between the three parties The CSU formed a coalition with the CDU; so did the FDP. That alone was hard work.

The CSU and the FDP were hostile toward each from the start, and many opportunities were engineered, especially by the more aggressive CSU, to give this hostility a free rein.

The Strauss party and the Bangemann club treat each other, in a time-honoured ritual, like Opposition parties.

In Stuttgart it was for once the FDP's turn to launch a head-on attack and enjoy the effect of its polemics.

The Free Democrats, purportedly a party of individualists, allowed themselves the luxury (and in Liberal terms the sin even) of collective intoxication, delirium, frenzy — call it what you like; it is a great unifier.

The Free Democrats have succeeded, at the instigation of Count Lambsdorff, a free agent now he is no longer in the Cabinet, in persuading the CDU to commit the coalition to amend unemployment benefit regulations.

The proposed amendment, which the unions claim will deal a body blow to the right to strike, is increasingly proving a brilliant tactical manoeuvre by the FDP.

In Stuttgart outraged trade unionists provided the Free Democrats with a public backdrop they had long missed.

The Liberals are gaining fresh support in industry and among small businessmen for attacking the power of the trade unions again at long last.

In some sections of uncommitted public opinion the Free Democrats are making use of the trade unions' declining popularity to claim that it is they, the FDP, who are redressing the balance in industrial disputes.

The FDP's move has arguably been most successful of all in sowing dissension in CDU ranks.

The industrial wing of the Christian Democrats senses an opportunity of staging a long-awaited rollback of trade union power, while the trade union wing is having to fight to retain the CDU's credibility as a party of the working class.

The Chancellor faces the dilemma of laying down a meaningful policy line in this front-line confusion. Will he succeed in warding off damage from the German people, the CDU and the coalition?

The Free Democrats have really gone to town this time (so much so that FDP leader Martin Bangemann was quick to play down the episode) because of the general election this time next year.

The FDP outrage was triggered by the clumsiness of CSU Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann and his state secretary Carl-Dieter Spranger in disregarding two classical articles of the Liberal catechism.

Zimmermann and Spranger have commissioned security reports on Green MPs in Bonn. In FDP eyes this is an unlawful abuse of the government machine against free citizens.

To add insult to injury, the two men disregarded parliamentary rights in withholding information when the Bundestag sought to clarify what had been going on.

Civil rights and parliamentarianism are two roots from which the Liberals still derive historical sustenance. The FDP protest was lodged by way of self-respect.

The two CSU politicians who have come under fire have a reputation for making short shrift of Liberals. They are also at the helm of a Ministry that used to be headed by Hans-Dietrich Genscher and later by Gerhart Baum, both Free Democrats.

The FDP still secretly regards the Bonn Interior Ministry as its own territory and only temporarily occupied by the CSU.

As coalition partners the CDU, CSU and FDP still rely on each other to stay in power in Bonn, where coalition leaders are keener on cooperation than on skirmishing.

Yet the crisis that is virtually the coalition's birthright will continue to smoulder and to let off steam whenever it can.

The Chancellor, whose job is to keep the wheels turning somehow or other, is not to be envied in his dual role as a necessarily partisan party leader and a constantly impartial arbiter.

The nearer the date comes on which power may be reshared, the more unpleasant the job of running the government becomes.

The government still holds two trump cards with which to impress the electorate: its containment of the national debt and an economic recovery for which it can hardly claim credit.

Yet if it were to make the *mistake of* too rudely disregarding the German voter's desire for harmony, it might run the risk of voters casting around for alternatives one of these days.

As yet, however, the entertainment value of coalition clashes still mainly prevails.

Jens Gundlach

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 8 January 1986)

Continued from page 1

steelworks in Misurata are still being built.

A thermal power plant is planned in collaboration with German companies in Melitta, an aluminium plant in Zuara, and a petrochemical complex in Raslanof.

Export financing for large-scale projects is made possible by guarantees provided within the framework of the Hermes export credit insurance scheme.

The guarantee commitment accepted by the government up until the end of 1981 amounted to DM13.7bn.

The budgetary committee has told the federal government in Bonn that this commitment was roughly DM11bn during 1985.

According to government spokesman, Friedhelm Ost, the current guarantee is "only" DM7.6bn.

In the event of a crisis in relations between Libya and the Federal Republic of Germany resulting in the discontinuation of payments the federal budget would have to intervene.

Direct investments by West German firms in Libya amount to DM274m, most of which are in the energy sector.

Since 1980 the Deminex — Deutsche Erdölversorgungsgesellschaft mbH has been working on the development and production of energy in Libya.

The company is looking for oil with the aim of subsequent production.

The development areas are deep in the Libyan desert.

The Deminex company with its payroll of 25 specialists (a third of which are on home leave) is located in Bengasi.

Some holes have already been drilled, without economically significant success so far.

The exploration costs of the Deminex company were financed with the help of grants by the Bonn government and company shareholders.

These grants are part of a long-term export promotion programme, which sets out to step up efforts to secure sources of energy for the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Veba group is a majority shareholder in the Deminex company.

Other shareholders are Wintershall, Union Rheinische Braunkohlen Kraftstoff, and Saarberg Öl und Handel.

About 1,500 West Germans are working on large-scale projects in Libya (up until recently the figure was 2,500).

The Federal Republic of Germany imported products to the value of DM6.1bn from Libya in 1984.

During the first 11 months of last year the corresponding figure was DM1.4bn, and 98 per cent of these imports were oil products and derivatives.

Approximately 15.1 per cent of the Federal Republic's total oil supplies comes is imported from Libya.

This underlines the significance of Libyan oil for the West German economy.

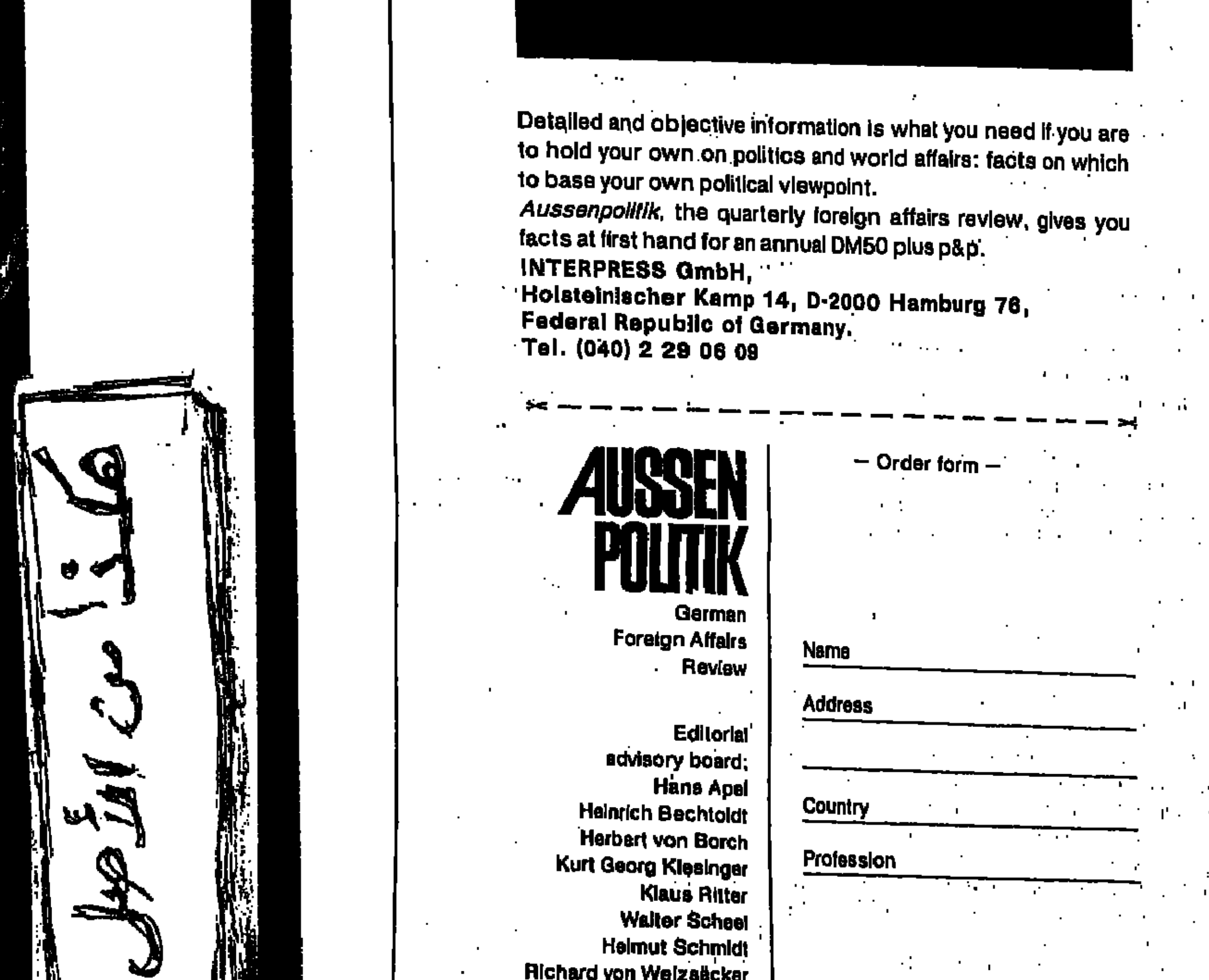
Libya, therefore, is the Federal Republic's third most important oil supplier (British North Sea oil supplies 27.7 per cent and Nigeria 15.2 per cent).

Libya is faced by considerable economic difficuties, a fact reflected in its last published balance-of-payments figure (1983) of DM2bn.

The country's rate of inflation is never lower than 15 per cent.

According to estimates for 1984 Gaddafi holds monetary reserves (including gold) worth roughly US-$4.5bn.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 10 January 1985)



■ PERSPECTIVE

Firm compensates victims of Nazi forced-labour policy

Feldmühle Nobel AG, a member of the Flick Group, is to pay DM5m in compensation to Jews who were forced to work in its munitions factories during the Third Reich. The question of forced labour for German firms has remained a controversial issue. The hue and cry over this claim is a reminder of Himmler's army of slave labourers.

DIE WELT

The furore over Jewish claims for compensation from the Flick Group has made it clear yet again there is no such thing as a clean break with the past.

In 1945, after the collapse and unconditional surrender of the Third Reich, optimists, believers in progress and newspaper critics may have felt Germany could now start from scratch.

But the very birth pains of the Federal Republic of Germany took place against the background of a dark and inglorious period in German history.

America, Britain and France scrapped the occupation statutes and granted the Federal Republic sovereignty on the understanding that the Adenauer government was willing to pay reparations to Israel and Jewish organisations.

Chancellor Adenauer, as contemporaries recall, was prepared to accept the Old Testament idea of a treaty of atonement with Israel.

At a solemn session of the German Bundestag on 27 September 1951 he said: "An overwhelming majority of the German people abhorred and played no part in the crimes committed against the Jews."

He added, however, that: "Unspeakable crimes were committed in the name of the German people that oblige us to make moral and material amends."

It was not just a matter of the victims of Nazi concentration camps, of their survivors and next of kin.

What about the millions of forced labourers who slaved away for the *Endsieg*, or final victory, under Himmler's yoke in labour camps and underground aircraft, missile, carbine and munitions factories?

They had to help prolong a war waged against themselves.

The SS leader joined Armaments Minister Albert Speer in playing an increasingly important role in the production of goods of vital importance for the war effort.

Himmler had his share of bizarre ideas, but there was more to him than that.

He may have tried to press oil from geraniums, to refine petrol from pine cones and to produce rubber from Russian dandelions.

He may have sought to annihilate people on a grand scale, but he was rational enough to appreciate the importance of the "large reservoir of Jewish manpower" for the war effort.

Obergruppenführer Oswald Pohl, head of the SS's main economics administration, certainly succeeded in persuading Himmler to slow down the pace of Jewish annihilation.

Pohl had hundreds of thousands of prisoners in 20 concentration and 165 labour camps. In 1943 there were 700,000 Jews in camps in German-occupied Poland.

Pohl even set up an SS manpower company, Ostindustrie GmbH (Osti).

Prisoners this slave labour firm was unable to put to its own use were hired out to other firms doing important war work.

For every day's work by a forced labourer on loan from the SS, firms had to remit four reichmarks to Himmler's organisation.

Companies that made use of this facility included some of the best-known industrial firms.

The Federal Republic of Germany negotiated reparations terms with Israel and other parties. A major party to the agreement reached in Luxembourg between March and August 1952 was the Conference of Jewish Material Claims against Germany.

The late Friedrich Flick, founder of the Flick empire, being sentenced in Nuremberg in 1947 to seven years' jail for war crimes. (Photo: AP)

This organisation represented the interests of Jewish victims of the Nazis who didn't migrate to Israel. The conference was to share DM450m of the DM3,450m agreed among the survivors it represented.

The treaty signed by Konrad Adenauer and Israel's Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett on 10 September 1952 in Luxembourg was received with mixed feelings by Jews all over the world.

Israeli extremists referred to the preposterous nature of this kind of blood money. "How much are our murdered grandparents to cost apiece?" outraged demonstrators asked in Tel Aviv.

The government of Israel took a much more pragmatic view. Israel had only just been founded and had to start from scratch economically. It couldn't afford the luxury of emotions, Prime Minister David Ben Gurion argued.

It couldn't afford to allow "the spoils to remain in the murderers' hands" either.

The treaty was beset by political and psychological problems; it was fraught with legal difficulties too. Just as the Holocaust was a unique phenomenon, so negotiators on both sides had new legislative ground to break.

Active legitimation of the victims, to use a legal term, was one such problem. "In international law the prevailing view until then," a historical review notes, "had been that only the states affected, representing the groups and individuals in question, were entitled to file claims for an offence under international law such as — in this instance — breaches of minority rights and human rights in general, and not the individuals themselves."

The treaty between the Federal Republic and Israel and the Hague Agreement with the Jewish Claims Conference were the first to entitle individuals to reparations payments. It was a legal innovation.

By the terms of the Federal Restitution Act the Federal Republic of Germany took on the role of the German Reich both as a debtor and as the Reich's legal successor.

Reparations were expected by Adenauer, Ben Gurion and Nahum Goldmann, president of the Jewish Claims Conference, to amount to DM10bn at most.

They have substantially exceeded this sum, mainly due to German pensions payments. Official estimates refer to between DM85bn and DM100bn.

Many German firms that employed Jewish or non-Jewish forced labourers during the war — an estimated 200 firms — have paid varying amounts in compensation too.

The injustice done by what was officially referred to as "annihilation by labour" has not, of course, been made good. There is no compensation for what the victims underwent.

The demand backed, among others, by Heinz Galinski, head of the Jewish community in Berlin, for Flick companies to pay compensation before the group changes hands is nothing new.

Hermann Fellner, CSU Bundestag member for Amberg, Bavaria, was wrong in suggesting this was the case.

He was, to put it mildly, ill-advised in stating that he felt it was unfortunate the demand had been made now rather than 40 years ago.

Besides, there is still a group of 20,000 to 30,000 Jewish claimants who have yet to be recompensed in any way, Jewish experts say.

The amount paid in marks and pfennigs is less important than the manner in which it is paid, says Walter Schwarz, the editor of a seven-volume study of "Compensation for Nazi Injustice Paid by the Federal Republic of Germany."

He calls on members of the successor generation on both sides not to denigrate the achievements of those who made this formidable work of reconciliation possible in the first place.

"Recompense," he writes, "cannot be made in words and gestures; it must take the form of genuine assistance. Cash can make peace. I believe hearts have been pacified too."

Horst Stein

(Die Welt, Bonn, 9 January 1985)

Continued from page 3

Greens formed a coalition with the SPD. The party's rank and file have been plunged into a tug-of-war between fundamentalist and pragmatic viewpoints. The Greens have failed yet again to forge their movement into a political party.

Yet at the year's end opinion polls agreed they still held the allegiance of over five per cent of the electorate. But their support was continuing to decline, which cannot be very encouraging given the election campaigns that lie ahead.

As for the affairs that made the news and created a stir in the course of 1985, on balance they don't amount to much in an annual review of this kind.

They include a succession of espionage cases in which Bonn secretaries have decamped to the GDR, the defection to East Berlin of high-ranking Cologne security official Hansjoachim Tiedge, the pensioning-off of his former boss, Heribert Hellenbroich of the *Bundesnachrichtendienst*, the somewhat superfluous parliamentary commission of inquiry into espionage affairs and the news that industrial donations had been used to bankroll *Bundesnachrichtendienst* operations.

Rudi Kilgus

(Allgemeine Zeitung, Mainz, 31 December 1985)



■ THE STATE

Police say everybody hates them and morale and pay are rock bottom

Morale among the nation's 200,000-strong police force is low. It believes that no one likes it — neither the public nor the politicians.

It is convinced that nothing is going right for it — that the duty roster system is not working, that efficiency is deteriorating and that the pay is dreadful.

Last year, many policemen took to the streets in protest. They wore their uniforms, which is forbidden, but presumably they believed that this was the only way to draw public attention to their plight.

There is frustation in police stations and resignation among policemen on the beat.

Günter Schröder, chairman of the Police Federation, the policemen's union, grumbled that "No matter where I turn, to the front, behind or to the side there is no one with us when it comes to solid solutions for our problems."

He said this after Bavaria's Interior Minister Karl Hillermaier, gave assurances at the recent Interior Ministers' Conference in Würzburg that the Conference "stood four-square behind the police".

This was not surprising given that all that ever emerges from the corridors of power are fine-sounding, non-committal words.

Heinz B. is 23 and single. He is a policeman in Frankfurt, one of the young members of the force in the front line when plastic bags full of urine and bricks come flying through the air.

There are times when he has to change his uniform twice in a day.

When there are no rioters in the streets he patrols in a police car, which is what most people see as a comfortable existence.

This comfortable existence involves intervention in from 10 to 20 incidents per shift. Between four and eight of these involve criminals.

Sometimes he has only a few seconds to decide if he should pull out his service revolver and a few more seconds to decide whether to shoot.

He has to arrest people and intrude upon people's rights. He has to know something about noise that disturbs the peace, foreigners, industry, foodstuffs and environmental laws. He must put himself in other people's shoes when married couples go at each other with knives and in motor accidents speak soothingly to victims suffering from shock.

He has to work under the critical eye of the public at large, keep strictly to the rules and later make accurate written reports.

Heinz B. earns DM2,300 gross per month.The police have "to do a lot of work for little money" and at a pinch would be prepared to do it if there were improvements on the horizon, but there are not.

One of Heinz B. colleagues is 35, married with two children and a police sergeant. He earns DM2,928 gross per month.

He said: "After all deductions and the rent I earn about DM300 more than someone in the same family situation who is on social security."

In this country police officers are not paid as officials who have to do shift work and who are constantly in touch with the shady side of our society, but like officials who sit at a safe desk and take stock of under-pants available for the army or like officials in the postal service who have to deal with complaints about high telephone charges.

About 80 per cent of West German police officers are part of the so-called "middle" ranks of the civil service, but in effect they are in the lower levels. A police sergeant who earns DM3,090 has reached his maximum pay.

No one has challenged the Police Federation's contention that in North Rhine-Westphalia 75 per cent of state officials earn DM4,500 or more gross. Only four per cent in the police force are at this pay level, however.

The situation is no better in other *Länder*. Measured in terms of their duties and the guidelines for appropriate pay for the job 60 per cent of all police officers should be paid at the rate for inspectors. But who would pay that?

The lack of funds is the source of schizophrenic developments. The crime rate has doubled over the past ten years and the police have had to take on any number of new duties. Demonstrations take up more and more police manpower. Currently more than ten million hours of overtime are worked.

Nevertheless three years ago there was a cutback in the police. In the past two years approximately 3,000 police appointments were done away with.

These economy measures affected clerical staff so that more and more highly qualified police officers have to spend their time at a typewriter instead of being in a squad car or tracking down law-breakers. Once upon a time a patrol policeman could rise to be a police superintendant. This was an incentive.

In February this year Gerhard Boeden, vice-president of the Federal Crime Bureau goes into retirement, one of the last to rise from the ranks.

RHEINISCHER MERKUR

Nowadays more and more senior police officers come from universities. For a number of years it has been a matter of "more education and advanced training".

The result is that more and more officials are in senior positions who know the law just as well as judges or lawyers.

But a policeman's flair cannot be learned at a university nor the intimate knowledge of the job that is acquired on the beat.

Specialist colleges produce inspectors pumped full of specialist knowledge, but they lack the maturing process that men on the beat undergo.

Police frustration is not only concerned with money. It also involves the internal structure of the police force. In many forces senior police officials have lost contact with the men on the beat.

The complaint is that senior police officers get invited to cocktail parties given by the mayor or the president of the chamber of commerce and other VIPs, but they never take a drink with their inspectors or senior inspectors.There is a one way street from above to below. Orders are passed down from above, but there are few reactions or complaints passing in the opposite direction.

The lines of communication have broken down. There is no talk of cooperation. In police circles it is said: "Eventually one gets to know what those above do not want to hear." This is a complaint that cannot be passed on.

A senior police official said: "We put a lot of faith in the old saying; what I don't know I'm not going to grieve about." So many problems do not reach the ears of those who lead the police..

Since the police have developed from being the henchmen of authority to an arm of democratic government the old esprit de corps has fallen by the wayside.

This esprit acted not only as an incentive to take on special duties but also ensured that the police never testified against fellow police officers.

There is no need to mourn the passing of this esprit de corps, but it can be regretted that the chance has been missed to build up a new democratic esprit de corps.

A democratic police force could again have a sense of the value of its role as a special service within our society. The onus lies on politicians and society itself to ensure that police operations meet the demands of a democratic society in every respect.

Police officers who are frustrated and resigned to their lot do not make good policemen. It is no accident that in recent times policemen make the headlines more often than they used to.

For many policemen the service is just a job like any other. Many policemen do not have a sense of identification with the force and there are no longer the inhibitions that deterred from infringing the law. Most policemen are guided in the main "only" by self-interest.

Because no pay is offered for special duties and efforts, policemen do their duty but nothing more. The fact that the police are "de-motivated" is perhaps the greatest single danger to our present internal security.

Police Federation head Günter Schröder said at a demonstration: "Those who do not offer the police a future cannot expect enthusiasm for the job."

The police have to bear on their shoulders the conflicts of our society — nuclear power plants, armaments or unemployment — but they feel they are left alone in this work.

Schröder said: "We have to carry the can for what others do. Politicians must bear some of the blame, when they do not have the courage to ban a neo-nazi meeting, although they know what will come of it.".

He was referring here to the disturbances in Frankfurt last year.A young police officer let off steam in a police magazine published by the Interior Ministry in Wiesbaden for the police of Hesse, writing about the new runway at Frankfurt airport.

Although the controversial runway at Frankfurt West has been in operation for over a year there are still protestors whose banners, designed by the citizens initiative organisation of neighbouring Weiterstadt, are far from complimentary of the police.

"The runway circus — at two on Saturday afternoon" is no joke. In the first place between 40 and 50 people apparently taking a walk gather there — between the ages of forty and seventy — bringing with them cameras and videos.

When about 150 rioters advance from the nearby woods the so-called "people out for a stroll" take pictures of the way the police deal with the protestors and how the police defend themselves.

Threats are shouted at the police such as "Now we have your picture." Then among other things the elderly "spectators" give a hand in trying to free those who have been apprehended. As a consequence police officers are more frequently calling for a ban on assemblies close to the runway.

The police magazine expressed the view that those in authority could not want to have police officers "treated like dirt week after week." So no one should then be surprised if "one day a police officer losses his head."

Internal security features less frequently in headlines now than it did at the time when Hanns Martin Schleyer was murdered. There is a danger of apathy setting in. Who these days talks about MTU manager Zimmermann, murdered in January 1985?

The fact that statistically there has been a slight decline in crime has caused a sense of relief. No one takes notice of the fact that over four million criminal offonces are committed annually, an inadmissible crime rate.

Pressure on those politicians responsible for internal security has been relaxed and by the same token their preparedness to invest in "internal security" measures.

For years police experts have warned against wide-spread organised crime. They have called for special measures to combat this crime wave. Little use is made of plainclothes police officers or informers.

Computer protection measures have raised questions about some police methods. Whether using computers in manhunts will be permitted or not still has to be discussed with German complacency without any consideration of the quick results that could be achieved.

This makes many police officers dissatisfied with their work.After training young police officers are compulsorily posted to large cities. In Bonn, for example, they stand on guard at a minister's home. For the first time they are on their own, far from their home and relatives and in a strange city. They do not have enough cash to go home at the weekends.

After a stint as guards young police officers are posted to patrol cars.

Complaining about their isolation Schröder said: "Whether in a patrol car or in a large police station they lack contact with the citizenry and colleagues with experience."

At last those in authority have realised that the major reform that organised police officers in police stations and hid them away in patrol cars is itself in need of reform.

This has already taken place in some cities. District police officers know everyone on their beat and teams of young and old police officers patrol either on foot or by bicycle.

But there are a few officials who are not completely convinced by this new (really old) philosophy. Many of them take the view that foot patrols are a down-grading of the police officer.

Nothing is simple with the police, and the police create difficulties for themselves.

A survey showed that the majority of policemen see themselves as "the whipping boys of the nation" and they are full of self-pity for their lack of prestige among the population.

This survey reveals a lot about the state of mind of the police, for these views are all wrong.

Three out of every four West Germans have faith in the police and the police come third in the list of most respected institutions in the country, after the Federal President and the Federal Constitutional Court.

The police come well before the courts, the armed forces, the Church and the central government in public esteem.

Horst Zimmermann

(Rheinischer Merkur/ Christ und Welt, Bonn, 28 December 1985)

■ BUSINESS

Music royalties 'collected by Chicago methods'

An organisation called GEMA is roundly disliked by organisers of events where music is played. GEMA, for its part heartily dislikes amendments to copyright legislation which alter the status of certain music played publicly. GEMA stands for *Gesellschaft für musikalische Aufführungs- und mechanische Vervielfältigungsrechte* (Society for Musical Performing Rights and Mechanical Copyright Protection). GEMA's job is to collect royalties for composers, songwriters and publishers. To do this it vets places and events where music is played — cafés, weddings, doctors' surgeries, dancing schools. Since July last year, GEMA has been receiving royalties on blank video cassettes and sound cassettes. GEMA is disliked not just because people have to pay it money. Its collection methods have come under strong criticism from many quarters, including Parliament. One music school proprietor talked of "Chicago methods". A musician says the group is "semi criminal". Some MPs are now asking if there is not a better way of protecting composers' copyright. The law changes GEMA objects to make certain slightly altered pieces of music no longer subject to copyright. They also lay down that certain groups such as old people's homes and youth welfare organisations do not have to pay royalties. GEMA is legally challenging the first law change. It cannot challenge the second change. That will have to be done by a composer directly affected. In this article for the *Frankfurter Rundschau*, Ludwig Siegele looks at the background of this controversy.

Christian Wimmer runs a dancing school in Munich. He is not fond of GEMA and its methods.

The Higher Regional Court in Munich decided that GEMA is entitled to eight per cent of the dancing school's revenue whenever music is played.

Up to now, Wimmer has only had to pay copyright fees for the school's final ball.

He talks of "Chicago methods", and he is not the only person to compare the performing rights society to a Mafia-type organisation.

During a special meeting in his electoral constituency of Rhine-Hesse to discuss GEMA Hansjürgen Doss, a CDU member of the Bundestag, heard many complaints of GEMA's "arbitrary policies", "incomprehensible methods" and "taxing of cultural events".

GEMA has been clashing with record companies for many years.

For the past three years record companies have had to transfer a fifth of their royalty payments to a special account.

The companies are now refusing to pay the rates laid down by GEMA.

Peter Zombik, the secretary of the German record industry's federal confederation, feels that GEMA's demands are "threatening the German sound recording industry".

GEMA's reputation — at least among people obliged to pay royalties — couldn't be worse, even though it is really doing a meaningful job.

According to the organisation's statutes, it is a kind of self-help organisation, whose aim is to "protect authors and look after their rights".

The performing rights society has been collecting royalties for composers, songwriters and publishers in the Federal Republic of Germany for over 50 years.

The just under 16,500 members of the organisation would hardly be able to protect their legal rights on their own.

GEMA has a staff of 500 who last year collected half a billion marks for members.

The sound recording industry accounted for the lion's share of DM165 million, and the broadcasting corporations paid DM145 million.

Concerts and dances provided DM52 million.

GEMA is not too fussy about how it gets its money. Some of its methods have turned many people, especially the smaller concert and dance organisers, into enemies.

There's plenty of red tape in GEMA's two head offices in Berlin and Munich and its 12 regional administrative centres.

The bills it sends out are often riddled with incomprehensible abbreviations and are in many cases incorrect.

There is no pussy footing with unwilling payers — they are quickly sued.

Anyone who announces a musical event in the newspaper but doesn't tell GEMA gets an unpleasant bill demanding double payment — the extra, it claims, are for additional administrative expenses.

In many cases, the organisation sends out its staff at night to collect royalty money.

The number of complaints has increased since it started using a large computer system.

Anyone listed in the computer since the beginning of the eighties runs the risk of being permanently pestered by inquiries about whether they have paid their royalty fees or not, in many cases before the event itself takes place.

Ole Seelenmeyer, the founder of the German Rock Musicians' Association (DRV), complains that "rock music initiatives receive bills even though musicians at their concerts play their own compositions".

For fear of even more trouble with GEMA many of the rock initiatives pay the money.

GEMA generally dismisses protests, and Seelenmeyer calls the methods employed by the organisation "semi-criminal".

A spokesman for GEMA, Gabriel Steinschulte, however, apologises for such "slip-ups" and says that the organisation "appreciates these problems".

A certain amount of "computer coolness" is inevitable, says Steinschulte, since there is no other way of tackling the time and energy needed for administrative work.

In Steinschulte's opinion, GEMA's unpopularity has its roots elsewhere.

"No-one likes paying money, especially for intellectual property", he emphasised.

This reflects a clear lack of understanding of what intellectual property is in the land of poets and philosophers, says Steinschulte.

Very few music users show an understanding for the rigid provisions of German copyright law.

Royalty fees have to be paid, for example, for all organised musical events which take place "in public" and involve "financial gain".

This is obvious in the case of radio and TV broadcasts and large concerts.

These two aspects, however, are very widely interpreted when it comes to smaller events.

Musical events are only then classed as "non-public" if those taking part in them are in some way personally linked.

According to court decisions so far, "financial gain" already exists if, for example, the organisers decide to split the costs a barrel of beer among the guests.

The senior citizens' club, for example, is just as liable to pay royalties for its serenade as is the concert organiser for the appearance of a rock group or Franz Beckenbauer for a birthday celebration held in public.

In all these cases it doesn't matter whether several or only one copyrighted piece of music is played: the fee has to be paid.

The size of this fee generally depends on the amount charged for admission to a particular event or the size of the premises in which that event takes place.

A dance held in a room with an area of 200 square metres, for example, an an admission charge of DM3 per person will cost the organisers about DM70 in royalties.

This may be not seem much to Franz Beckenbauer, but it makes life difficult for many of the smaller non-profitmaking organisations trying to organise cultural events.

This explains why a number of social events were exempted from payment by the amendment of the copyright law on 1 July, 1985.

Old people's or youth welfare groups, for example, as well as prison welfare groups are no longer obliged to pay royalties to GEMA for the musical events they organise.

Frankfurter Rundschau

Steinschulte, however, feels that this new situation underlines the general lack of understanding for the concept of intellectual property.

"The copyright owner loses out in the name of a social cause" (see box), Steinschulte complains.

This is not the only reason why the original desire of the GEMA's founder father, the opera composer Richard Strauss, for a fair remuneration for authors has not been fulfilled.

Over 90 per cent of the roughly 13,000 music-makers in the Federal Republic receive less royalties on average than an unemployed person receives unemployment benefit.

Allowing for DM71 million in administrative expenses and DM137 million in payments to foreign copyright societies, only about DM300 million were left for the GEMA members themselves.

The arithmetical DM23,000 per copyright owner, however, distorts the real picture: the publishers get about a third of these royalties.

GEMA's no-nonsense methods have also rubbed many politicians up the wrong way.

In a written Parliamentary question at the beginning of the year several CDU and FDP Bundestag members asked the federal government whether an "economic mechanism" and "competing performing rights societies" might not be able to better safeguard the interests of copyright owners.

In its response to this question the government was obliged to defend a "de facto monopoly".

If a system of competing performing rights societies were to be introduced, the government claimed, the copyright owners would be left empty-handed.

The "use" of works protected by copyright would be more difficult to ascertain, and royalty revenue would decrease.

What is more, the German Patent Office in Munich also keeps a wary eye of the GEMA.

The lack of competition in this field, however, not only means benefits for copyright owners.

Its monopoly character explains why very few changes have been made in the administrative structure of the GEMA since it was set up in 1920.

None of the three occupational groups represented in the organisation, for example, can be outvoted in decisions of general principle.

The most serious consequence of this right of veto is that GEMA's royalties allocation plan has become more and more complicated due to the need to cater for every possible "special interest".

GEMA has a 60-page manual outlining allocation criteria.

Composer Franz Josef Breuer from Hamburg, who was once a member of GEMA's supervisory board, pointed out that even experts find it difficult to decipher the various rules amnd regulations.

Even the Commission of the European Community asked for a simplification at the beginning of the 1970s.

The allocation plan lays down that composers of "serious" music should receive a proportionately greater share of royalty revenues.

"More sophisticated music has fewer opportunities to be performed", GEMA spokesman Steinschulte explains.

For this reason, he added, this imbalance must be redressed, much to the annoyance of younger members of GEMA.

DRV founder Seelenmeyer views this policy as a "discrimination against rock music".

He feels that "serious music" is already receiving huge subsidies in "our classically oriented cultural life", regarding the "removal of this injustice" as his organisation's main objective.

It is doubtful, however, whether the DRV will be able to achieve this goal in the foreseeable future.

The unusual admission procedure for new GEMA members guarantees that very few personnel changes are made in the decision-making bodies.

A copyright owner, for example, can only become a full member of the GEMA after five years and provided he has a corresponding high royalty revenue.

It takes 10 years membership before a member can be elected onto the organisation's supervisory board, GEMA's most powerful body.

GEMA spokesman Steinschulte explains this situation by pointing out that the organisation "needs safeguards in order to make sure that only those copyright owners have a final say, who have corresponding royalties".

GEMA's managing director, Erich Schulze, is an almost legendary expression of this continuity. Schulze, who is in his seventies, has headed the per-

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■ MOTORING

Mercedes, VW Japanese, top the sales

Daimler-Benz was the most successful German car manufacturer last year. It sold 270,000 vehicles, an increase of 16 per cent on 1984.

This means that more Germans bought Daimler-Benz's Mercedes last year than bought a Ford — Ford sold only 250,000, 15 per cent down on 1984.

These figures are tentative because the final sales figures are not yet available.

Japanese manufacturers look like having sold well over 300,000 vehicles in Germany for the first time, taking Japan's share of the market from 12 per cent to more than 13 per cent.

BMW sales were down 10 per cent at 144,000 and Audis were also down 10 per cent to under 130,000. But Volkswagen, which owns Audi, increased sales by 4 per cent to more than 540,000, which compensated for Audi.

The other German maker, Opel, sold 360,000, down 7 per cent.

Almost 2.4 million new cars were sold during the year, roughly the same as in 1984.

Daimler-Benz has avoided the ups and downs of the market cycle better than other makers, partly because so many Mercedes are company cars and not paid for out of earnings after tax.

Ford's figure, which brings its share of the market down to barely 10 per cent, includes figures for Fiestas and Escorts, which are made in Spain.

BMW, unlike Ford, was able to compensate its sales drop by its export performance.

On average the dollar exchange rate was fine in deutschemark terms over the year, making for windfall profits of well over DM100m.

The Audi 100, the VW subsidiary's best seller, has lost much of its attraction since Volkswagen increased prices heftily.

Opel's decline would have been even worse if it had not been for the Opel Corsa, which is made in Spain.

Its sales went up between 7 and 8 per cent, from 42,000 to more than 45,000.

Sales of imported models increased to almost 31 per cent, but this figure includes German models made abroad, such as the Corsa, Escort and Fiesta.

Imports in the strict sense of the term accounted for 27 per cent of new car sales.

One foreign carmaker, Peugeot of France, owed its comeback in the German market to a single model, the 205.

Peugeot's 1985 German sales were about 57,000 units, up roughly 25 per cent and including over 70 per cent 205s.

Peugeot increased German sales by roughly the same figure as Renault's German sales declined.

Japanese imports broke yet another record, over 300,000 sales. It looks like being well over 300,000, too.

Extra sales of an estimated 25,000 Mazdas, Datsuns and so on took Japanese car sales in Germany from 12 per cent in 1984 to over 13 per cent last year.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 30 December 1985)

Volkswagen moves into the Spanish driving Seat

Hannoversche Allgemeine

The best technology. That's Seat, jawohl! a Spanish advertising slogan for the loss-making Spanish carmaker proclaims. And the "w" in *jawohl* is unmistakably the VW logo.

The advertising copy mentions the German Golf, Santana and Passat in the same breath as the Spanish Ibiza, Ronda and Malaga.

In Spain at least the Seat, Volkswagen and Audi merger is already an established fact. The "marriage of the year" has in effect long since taken place.

The engagement was in September 1982 when the well-heeled VW Group signed a cooperation agreement with the ailing Spanish carmaker.

"Seat, German friend," a Madrid newspaper headline proclaimed with glee and relief. A previous ill-fated partnership with Fiat had been abandoned after legal disputes.

What the Spaniards saw as a historic pact with the Germans provided for VW Polo, Derby and Santana models to be made in Seat works.

State-owned Seat took on exclusive rights to import, sell and service VWs and Audis in Spain. Spanish motorists have since incessantly been reminded of the alliance.

Seat has repeatedly announced that the close relationship was soon to be regularised, with VW preparing to buy Seat outright. Volkswagen denied these claims.

Even now Seat feels it is a good match, the Spanish government having agreed to foot its losses, VW executives are still chary of going out on a limb.

Volkswagen had intended to thin out Seat's payroll from 23,000 to 21,000 by the end of 1986, but difficulties within the company are felt to jeopardise this target.

Spanish commentators claim that a mere 10 per cent of the problems discussed in confidential talks between the two companies still await solution.

Little mention is made of difficulties in Madrid or Barcelona at present, and optimism about coming to terms with VW soon is based this time on fairly firm foundations.

On 27 December Spanish Premier Felipe Gonzalez' Socialist government made short shrift of the most serious obstacle to a take-over as the cautious Germans saw it.

The Spanish Cabinet passed a decree by which the government agreed to meet Seat losses that have mounted to nearly DM3bn over the years.

The state-owned holding group INI is to plug the gap, funds being provided by the government. The Madrid daily *El Pais* said Spanish taxpayers were being called on to foot the bill for poor management, antiquated technology and a lack of ideas and initiative.

But the newspaper felt that privatisation and the forthcoming take-over by Volkswagen meant Seat's troubles would soon be over.

So would Franco's old dream of a major Spanish carmaker.

The Spaniards have *thus* agreed to meet VW's main demand and pay Seat's debts. Even before the take-over VW set about reorganising production, rationalisation and quality control in the Seat works in Barcelona and Pamplona.

The Spaniards feel VW has already committed itself so heavily that despite cautious tactics it can only be a matter of time before the take-over goes ahead and the dream (or nightmare) is over.

A meeting between VW chief executive Carl H. Hahn and the Spanish Premier seems to have clinched the issue.

They met in Bonn last October and appear to have agreed to terms that will give the German carmaker a privileged position in the Spanish market and ensure the survival of both the Seat marque and thousands of Seat jobs that are in jeopardy.

Volkswagen, Spanish sources claim, is first to buy 51 per cent of Seat's paid-up capital, as evidently agreed in a memorandum of understanding at the end of 1985.

VW are said to be planning to buy out the remaining Seat shareholders by 1990. The Spaniards feel the marriage could officially go ahead in March.

Lothar Labusch

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 4 January 1986)

Continued from page 7

forming rights society since 1945. Schulze's achievements during this period are undisputed among GEMA members.

Gustav Kneip, the composer of the German Our Father and chairman of the Syndicate of German Composers (IDK), praises Schulze as a "brilliant pragmatist".

Schulze has fought for copyright protection over the years with great skill and an often exaggerated sense of prestige.

The "cunning old devil", as Schulze is often nicknamed in GEMA, deserves a great deal of the credit for pushing through the legislation placing royalties on empty cassettes.

However, when it comes to changing fundamental aspects of the organisation Schulze is less progressive.

At the end of the 1970s, the composer and professional jurist Peter Ruzicka together with a few colleagues called for a greater share of copyright owners in the so-called sound recording collection money.

Ruzicka, who is now the director of the RIAS symphony orchestra in Berlin, was unwilling to accept the fact that publishers received half of this money just like the authors themselves.

Ruzicka's most bitter opponent at the time was Erich Schulze.

Ruzicka at least had the satisfaction of a part success. Publishers today only get a 40 per cent share of the sound recording money. Schulze is struggling to readapt copyright law to the new situation brought about by the introduction of the "new media".

It looks as if he'll have to do this for some time, since there is no sign of a worthy successor.

One GEMA member, who wishes to remain anonymous, went so far as to say: "The whole joint will collapse as soon as the old man leaves".

Ludwig Siegele

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 21 December 1985)

■ AVIATION

Airbus technology takes a lot of flying out of flying

Professor Uwe Ganzer, lecturer in aircraft construction and aerodynamics at the Technical University, Berlin, wrote this article about the newest Airbus, the A 320, for *Die Welt*.

No feature of modern technology has made such a mark on the development of the new A 320 Airbus as fly-by-wire, a system that has radically changed the entire cockpit.

Yet in relation to the A 310 it is merely a logical extension of tried and trusted technology.

Fly-by-wire is first and foremost the transmission by wire of cockpit instructions to electro-hydraulic power valves that operate individual sections of rudder and other steering gear.

In the A 320 Airbus the entire secondary steering, such as flaps and spoilers, is electronically operated, as is the primary steering (along the pitch and roll axes).

Only the rudder and the horizontal tail surfaces are still mechanically operated.

But a mechanical back-up system is retained to ensure that the A 320 can still be flown in an emergency.

Electrical transmission of signals leads to a drastic reduction in the number of mechanical components, resulting in a substantial reduction in both weight and maintenance.

Airbus Industrie says the system cuts the plane's weight by 600 kg, while maintenance costs in the steering section have been cut by 40 per cent, mainly due to a substantial improvement in fault diagnosis.

But the main feature of the fly-by-wire system is that it uses a computer in the electronic transmission of signals and so incorporates digital data processing.

Data fed to the computers include steering positions, first and foremost the position of the ministick, or joystick, and the positions of landing and brake flap levers.

A number of sensor readings are also relayed to the computers. They include figures from the air data computer and the attitude heading reference system, such as directional references and angle of pitch.

The autopilot is also coupled to the computer system. Data are immediately converted into fine adjustment of the steering settings.

Signal processing is carried out in accordance with prearranged schedules that directly affect the aircraft's behaviour. This makes the plane easier to handle and safety features such as automatic pitch compensation easier to incorporate.

As a result the joystick needs only to be shifted to one side to steer a curve. Pitch no longer needs to be taken into account. And the joystick doesn't have to be pulled toward the pilot.

As a rule operating the joystick will automatically be accompanied by the required trim. Pitch angle is automatically adjusted by pushing or pulling the joystick.

When the joystick is released it slowly returns to neutral, the aircraft remaining in the set position.

Conversely, no input means no motion. This mode of operation is new but strikingly simple.

A further example of safety-enhancing properties is pitch angle limitation. At low speeds it is limited to the rating for maximum lift.

If the pilot tries to oversteer, the attempt will be automatically offset by a nose-heavy trim. The A 320 thus has ideal aerodynamics.

Computers are the nerve-centre of the fly-by-wire system, so it clearly makes sense for steering controls and cockpit indicators to be digitalised and monitor screens to be used.

The basic design concept of the A 320's cockpit was for all data needed to fly the aircraft to be shown on monitor screens. So the main instrument panel incorporates six colour monitors.

They are all 18.5 centimetres square, or much larger than the 12.7-centimetre screens used in the A 310 Airbus and the Boeing 757 and 767.

Pilot and co-pilot each have two electronic flight instrument system (EFIS) screens.

Both can see two screens in the centre of the instrument panel that form part of the electronic centralised aircraft monitor system (ECAM).

The first EFIS screen is the primary flight display, or PFD, which conveys all information contained in the classical T-array of analog instrumentation.

Screen centre is the accustomed artificial horizon, while the second EFIS screen is the navigation display, or ND.

It combines flight path graphics in a compass array and a meteorological radar display.

The two ECAM screens contain data on the aircraft's technical condition.

Look, mum! No hands! In the automated cockpit of the A320 Airbus a crew of only two is needed instead of the previous three. (Photo: Lufthansa)

The upper screen contains engine data, plus information on individual systems in accordance with the given flight phase.

In addition to routine information when flights are proceeding normally, ECAM screens are mainly used when technical hitches occur.

Whenever trouble occurs in any aircraft system the screen indicates in plain language where the problem is and what consequences it has and gives check-list instructions to rectify the situation.

The FADEC, short for full authority digital engine control, system is another substantial improvement that eases the workload on cockpit crews.

The FADEC system is designed for both engines, the CFM 56-5 and the V 2500, that are operated by digital electronics rather than hydraulic systems.

The digital computer link makes it possible to work out the ideal operational setting for the engine at all stages of flight and to set the engines accordingly.

The position of the power lever is preset for the various flight phases, such as take-off, ascent, cruising, coasting and reverse thrust.

Optimum thrust is worked out by computer and set automatically.

The new-look cockpit of the A 320 Airbus poses two initial questions:

- Will sidestick steering be accepted by pilots and civil aviation authorities used to symmetrically arranged and mechanically coupled steering columns?
- How can digital electronics be made to ensure at least the same degree of safety as is provided by mechanical systems?

As for the sidestick, experimental flights with a sidestick were made by the Concorde back in 1978, while Airbus Industrie has put the sidestick through extensive trials on board a converted A 300.

At least 25 flying hours were logged by pilots from different airlines and answerable to different civil aviation authorities.

The result of these trials was that the ministick was given definite approval.

As for electronic controls, here too comprehensive experience has been gained on board the Concorde, which is fitted out with fly-by-wire for all three axes.

Over 100,000 flying hours have been logged with this system since it was first used on regular flights. The mechanical back-up has not once had to be used.

The safety of the fly-by-wire system is ensured by a wide range of measures. Two separate computers are used for each axis (pitch and roll), for instance.

The computers differ from each other in both hard-and software — a safety precaution known as dissimilar redundancy.

Each line between computer and steering component has a separate mon*itor lead, again with dissimilar* hard- and software, and signals are constantly compared.

Redundant leads are laid in separate strands of cable.

Energy supplies are also ensured by a variety of routes. In addition to the generator powered by the engines and the APU there is another generator powered by an air turbine.

So even if a flight control computer is defective the likelihood of the entire electronic flight control system breaking down is less than 10 to the power of -12.

That is a margin of safety comparable with that of conventional flight controls. And even if this breakdown were to occur, the mechanical rudder and trim controls should still enable the pilot to handle the aircraft satisfactorily.

Uwe Ganzer

(Die Welt, Bonn, 7 January 1986)

■ LANGUAGE

In a terrible Schlamassel, I ask: 'Josef, hoste geganwet majn mantl?'

Yiddish in its heyday — in the 1930s — was spoken by an estimated 11-12 million of the world's 14-15 million Jews.

It seems to have originated among Jews on the upper and middle Rhine in the 11th century AD and to have combined mediaeval German dialect, Hebrew words and expressions from shul and the Torah and scraps of Old French and Italian.

Centuries — and pogroms — later, it moved with what was left of the Jewish community to Eastern Europe and now, in the wake of the Nazi holocaust, its days are arguably numbered.

Yiddish expressions are widespread in German. All of us use them, although few will be aware that phrases such *Hals und Beinbruch!* are Yiddish.

To wish a skier *Hals und Beinbruch* (literally: "Break your neck and legs!") may seem to make sense in an upside-down sort of way.

In reality the words are bowdlerised Hebrew, a good luck wish that found its way into standard German via Yiddish.

Some Yiddish terms found their way into German in an even more roundabout manner, via the language of the underworld, the *Rotwelsch* of tramps and hawkers.

One can imagine mediaeval Jewish merchants and moneychangers meeting members of the criminal fraternity "on the road."

The jargon of thieves and vagabonds later found *its way into conversational* German via fellow-travellers, soldiers and students.

Meshugge, meaning mad, is originally Hebrew and borrowed from Yiddish. So is *mies*, meaning bad, *Tinnef*, meaning rubbish, and *Schlamassel*, meaning a mess, a fix or a tricky situation.

The root word of *Schlamassel* is mazel (as in mazeltov), while *Pleite*, meaning broke or bankrupt, originally meant doing a moonlight flit to avoid being imprisoned for debt.

Schäkern, meaning to flirt, is derived from the Hebrew word for a woman's lap.

Unter aller Sau, wo Bartel seinen Most holt and *Saure-Gurken-Zeit* are Yiddish expressions of Hebrew derivation that have been bowdlerised beyond recognition.

Unter aller Sau is not a reference to pigs of any description; it means "beneath measure," hence appallingly bad, in Hebrew.

Bartel is not a person and he has nothing whatever to do with Most (mustard). The one word originally meant a jemmy, the other money or valuables.

As for the *Saure-Gurken-Zeit*, or silly season, it has nothing to do with sour gherkins; it is a time of zores and jokres, or trials and tribulations.

Schickse to this day is a derogatory term for a dumb and tiresome woman in German dialect. The original Hebrew was the brazen image of the Old Testament, an object of distaste to devout Jews.

In Yiddish it came to mean a Christian girl, someone a good Jewish boy cannot possibly marry because their children would then not be Jews.

En route from Yiddish to German via the *Rotwelsch* jargon of thieves it came to mean a Jewish girl, not a Gentile.

Two well-known Yiddish proverbs can be transcribed as follows: A mentsch lernt sich redn sejer fri, schwajgn sejer spet, and: As ale zejn soln dir arojssfaln, nur ejn zon sol dir blajbn far zejnwejtog.

The one means we learn to talk at an early age but to be quiet only late in life. The other is a curse wishing someone's teeth to fall out: all but one that will continue to ache.

Both can so easily be transliterated into German that readers will be tempted to wonder whether Yiddish is not just a mediaeval German dialect.

It certainly originated in mediaeval Germany, among Jews on the middle and upper Rhine, some of whom had migrated from Romance-speaking areas.

The original Old German was mixed with Hebrew from divine service (shul) and the scriptures, plus scraps of mediaeval German, Old French and Italian dialect.

During the Crusades Jewish communities in the Rhine valley were at the receiving end of what later became known as pogroms. They were later blamed for the Black Death as well.

In the 13th and 14th centuries they led separate and distinctive lives in the ghetto, and their spoken German grew very distinctive too.

Most persecuted German Jews headed east to Central and Eastern Europe: to Vienna, Prague, Poland, Lithuania, western Russia and Rumania.

There they borrowed expressions from their host nations but kept up Jewish traditions, including what gradually came to be known as Yiddish.

This was particularly easy in Poland, where they lived in separate communit-

Frankfurter Allgemeine

ies with a separate administration and legal system.

Old Yiddish took shape by about 1700, consisting of dialects differing mainly in the vowels preferred. It had long been the spoken language of the poor and uneducated.

It boasted a rich literature for the poor Jews who spoke no Hebrew, for Jews in the Dispersion without a local religious community, and for the uneducated.

For "uneducated" read "women." The study of the Hebrew scriptures was the privilege of men.

In the Middle Ages only a handful of Christians could read or write, whereas few Jewish men could not read or write. They had to learn to read the scriptures for religious purposes.

There were books in Yiddish that told Biblical tales in the spoken language. There were devotional and religious works, collections of Jewish and Gentile tales, books of Jewish history and prayer books for women.

Hasidic Jews, members of a mystical sect founded in Poland in about 1750 in opposition to rationalism and ritual laxity, published in Yiddish the miraculous tales of their rabbis.

The oldest extant version of the Kudrun-Lied, a Middle High German heroic epic, is a Yiddish version dating back to 1382.

When classical German of the late 18th and early 19th century reached Eastern Europe and became the language of profane education, Yiddish came to be looked down on.

Moses Mendelsohn, a friend of the 18th century German playwright Lessing, saw Yiddish as a kind of German gone wrong and dismissed it as slang.

"Enlightened" Jewish intellectuals began to campaign against Yiddish, especially in Lithuania. They wrote in Yiddish, which was the language of the co-religionists they sought to influence.

Their aim was to include as much modern German as possible in Yiddish. In the second half of the 19th century there was, inevitably, a counter-movement that praised the beauty of the Yiddish language.

Mendele Abramowitsch, 1836-1917, a Lithuanian Jew, is generally acknowledged to have been the founding father of classical Yiddish literature. He wrote realistically about life in the shtetl, the Jewish ghettoes of old Russia.

Younger writers modelled themselves on Jizchak Leib Perez, 1851-1915, a Polish socialist, Zionist and admirer of Hasidism who stood for a special kind of Romanticism.

But the best-known Yiddish writer was Sholem Aleichem Rabinowitsch, 1859-1916, a Ukrainian Jew with a keen eye for the idiosyncracies of his co-religionists in Eastern Europe.

Classical Yiddish literature provides the answer to the question whether Yiddish is a language in its own right or merely a bowdlerised form of German.

"The assumption that Yiddish is derived from German is as inaccurate as the frequent assumption that man is derived from the ape," writes Uriel Weinreich in his "College Yiddish."

In both cases there were common ancestors.

In the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries many Jews wandered westward again, forced to leave Eastern Europe by the pogroms, the poor economic prospects and their inability to make social headway.

They moved to Western Europe, and from there to North and South America, South Africa and Australia.

In the early 1930s Yiddish was spoken by an estimated 11-12 million of the world's 14-15 million Jews.

At a more conservative estimate seven million Jews lived in Eastern and Central Europe, nearly three million in North America, 300,000 in Western Europe and Palestine, about 250,000 in South and Central America, over 55,000 in Africa, 14,000 in Asia (excluding Palestine) and 9,000 in Australia.

The new languages in their host countries and the process of assimilation led to a steady decline in the number of Yiddish speakers.

The Nazi holocaust, which cost the lives of six million Jews, including about five million Yiddish speakers (according to Salomon Birnbaum in his Grammar of the Yiddish Language), had a further, devastating effect on Yiddish culture.

Weinreich says Yiddish used to be the native language of most of the world's Jews. "For nearly 1,000 years Yiddish was the language of the largest and most creative part of the Jewish people," he writes.

Salcia Landmann, in *Jiddisch — Das Abenteuer einer Sprache*, forecasts the demise of Yiddish as a spoken language.

She doesn't feel it is doomed primarily as a result of the holocaust. It is mainly a consequence of assimilation: voluntary or, as in the Soviet Union, enforced.

In both cases assimilation cuts Jews off from their roots. "Let there be no mistake," she writes, "Yiddish needs the constantly resurging and enriching stimulus of the Hebrew-Aramaic scriptures if it is to stay alive."

This is in no way disproved by a recent article in the *Jerusalem Post* headlined "Yiddish with an Oxford accent" and dealing with Yiddish studies at Oxford University.

Yiddish is taught at many American universities. There is even a chair of Yiddish studies in Israel. But that alone is no guarantee of its survival as a spoken language.

For generations Yiddish should continue to stand a chance of survival among the chosen few ultra-orthodox Jews. They feel Hebrew is a holy language and prefer to discuss everyday matters in Yiddish.

Yiddish is still spoken in Israel, especially in Tel Aviv and Haifa where elderly Jewish migrants from *Germany* congregate.

"Josef," one may hear them ask in a cafe, "hoste geganwet majn mantl?" ("Josef, have you nicked my coat?").

Jews of German extraction are still known as Jeckes — because even in Palestine they staunchly refused to take off their jackets. On taking leave of each other they frequently say: "Blejb gesund!" ("Keep well").

Oriental Jews are nicknamed Chachach because of how they pronounce Hebrew. To get their own back they nicknamed European Jews Wuswus — because their every other word seemed to be "wus?" ("what?").

Yiddish at times has a late and rather touching revival in Israel when elderly Israelis converse with Jewish visitors from America, England, Brazil, Argentina and Australia.

They talk Yiddish, and German speakers can understand almost every word.

Most turn out not to have spoken Yiddish, their native language, for 25 or 30 years and to have retrieved it, at first hesitantly, then with evident pleasure, when they found they were unable to converse in Hebrew, English, Spanish and Portuguese.

People who speak no Yiddish find it hard to learn, let alone read, because it is written in Hebrew.

Between 15 and 25 per cent of Yiddish is Hebrew in origin (depending on the speaker's level of education), and Hebrew is written without vowels, making life even more difficult for beginners.

But the 75-80 per cent of German words are no trouble once Hebrew script has been mastered.

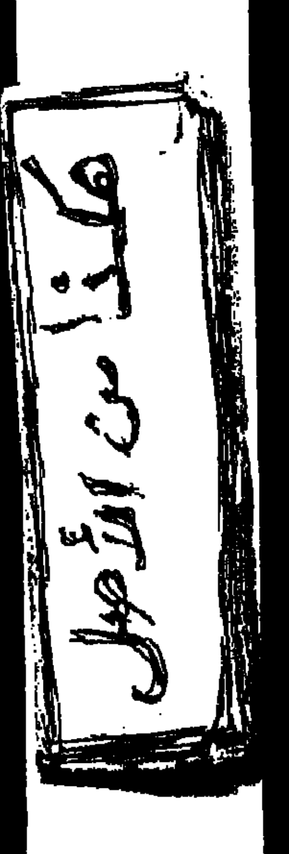
Yiddish pronunciation was standardised in 1937 by the YIWO Institute in New York, while retention of the Hebrew script made it easier to standardise Yiddish dialects.

Yet German Jews in particular still tend to look down on Yiddish as the language of their uneducated Eastern European brethren.

A German journalist reporting from Israel once used the word *Mischpoke*, meaning family in Hebrew but in a derogatory sense in Yiddish.

A German-speaking Israeli accused him of using Nazi jargon and expressions borrowed from *Der Stürmer*. The

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■ LITERATURE / MUSIC

German culture touches a Japanese chord

General-Anzeiger

The Japanese love German music. The words of old German folk songs are better known to them than to many of us.

So it was not surprising when Japanese Premier Yasohiro Nakasone burst into song with all the verses of *Die Loreley* when, during his visit to Bonn last May, he went on a trip along the Rhine with Chancellor Kohl.

This is a phenomenon for us, for who among us knows any Japanese songs?

For the Japanese German music is a part of western music and culture.

From the age of ten every Japanese child gets to know German classics and German folk music. These lessons are compulsory.

Mozart, Bach, Brahms and Ludwig van Beethoven are all honoured in Japan — and there is a tradition behind this.

In 1914, at the beginning of the First World War, 3,000 German prisoners of war were interned at Tokushima in southern Japan. The then Meiji Emperor ordered the people to be friendly to the men from the land of culture. In gratitude for the kindly and considerate way in which they were treated they sang Beethoven's 9th Symphony in a Buddhist temple.

The Japanese were enthusiastic about this music and they wanted more.

Today every Japanese child knows that Beethoven was deaf when he composed his symphony.

Many Germans remained in Japan at the war's end. They married and had families. There is still today in Tokyo the German bakery, established by the Huchheim family — with a subsidiary in West Germany.

This story explains perhaps why Beethoven is so much loved, but not the whole of German music.

The present director of the Japanese Cultural Institute in Cologne, Professor Takashi Oshio, sees the sources of this affection for German music, despite other differences, in a similarity in mentality in this respect.

Professor Oshio said: "German music radiates love, loyalty and melancholy. These are qualities that a Japanese recognises in his own nature and which goes to his heart. He can identify with this music. The greatest awareness a Japanese has of life is the knowledge of its transitoriness. He can find his own identity in German music."

From 1603 until 1868 Japan was closed to the rest of the world. The Japanese were worried about colonisation. They had had horrific experiences with the Spanish and Portuguese, who came as monks to Japan and brought weapons with them.

Only the Protestant Dutch were allowed to stay on Japanese soil. This changed abruptly with the accession of the Emperor Meiji.

He opened Japan's doors and in the same year the Japanese gained access to our music.



Professor Oshio . . . connections with the Mann family. (Photo: private)

German folk songs were known in Japan, not only in schools but also in the family. Almost every Japanese family possesses a musical instrument.

These days Japan is flooded with German music. There is enormous demand for German song-books and instruments.

Professor Oshio said: "West Germany has a trade surplus in this sector." He has himself done a great deal to promote German music.

Professor Oshio, a philosopher and Germanistics expert has lectured on Japanese television and radio on the German language, music and culture.

His lectures were popular with an audience rating constantly well over a million.

He is also well known in Japan as a writer. He has written well over 20 books, including translations of works by Karl Barth, Goethe and Thomas Mann.

His recent translation of Mann's Joseph and his Brothers is shortly to be published in four volumes in Japan.

Oshio is a close friend of members of the Mann family. As an admiring young student he wrote to Thomas Mann and he was a friend of Katja Mann until her death. He was a regular and welcome guest in her home.

Oshio had a research grant from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to lecture at the University of Marburg from 1962 until 1964. This was followed up by three further invitations from the Foundation to work in West Germany. For his services to West German - Japanese friendship he was awarded the Order of the Federal Republic of Germany by the then President Walter Scheel during a visit to Japan in 1978. The new Japanese envoy to the Federal Republic has been given leave of absence from his directorship of the Japanese Cultural Institute by Tokyo's Chuo University. Until now a unique combination in Japanese diplomacy.

Brunhilde Feddern

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 3 January 1986)

■ ADVENTURES

How the Baron Münchhausen legend outgrew the man

Without the slightest touch of exaggeration, it can be said that the literary Baron Munchausen was born 200 years ago. In 1785, the first collection of tales called *Baron Munchausen's Narrative of his Marvellous Travels and Campaigns in Russia*, appeared in England.

The tall stories said to have been related by a professional soldier called Karl Friedrich Hieronymous von Münchhausen (the spelling has been altered in English) were assembled and written by Rudolf Eric Raspe.

The story-telling baron was born in 1720 at Bodenwerder Castle, on the River Weser, in north Germany. In 1740 and 1741 he took part in two Russian campaigns against the Turks. He was promoted to captain of cavalry and afterwards managed his estate at Bodenwerder until his death in 1791.

Both there and also in Göttingen he is said to have told stories of the wildest escapades and the most impossible adventures.

He did not record his stories in any way. Others did that. He never gave permission for his stories to be written and he was not happy with the unexpected fame he achieved from them.

The first stories written in the first person appeared in English at the end of 1785/1786 published in Oxford. This gave the Baron no pleasure at all.

Writer and natural scientist Rudolf Erich Raspe had written them down. He had studied in Göttingen and worked as *a second-hand bookseller in Kassel.*

But he had had to leave Germany because he was wanted on embezzlement charges. It was rumoured that he had sold off a part of his coin collection so as to cut a good figure at court.

In London he earned a miserable living through his writing. He wrote the Munchausen stories because he needed money.

The volume was small, only 48 pages in



Baron Münchhausen . . . a tall tale indeed, sir. (Photo: Historia)

small format, made up of five chapters. Raspe did not have any literary pretentions. He just picked up comical ideas and punch lines from various issues of a German comic paper. (Münchhausen was not named by name.) Raspe translated these literally, putting the material into a background story.

The small book quickly became a huge success. The second edition was published in 1786, and in the summer of the same year the third appeared.

It was not long before the "Liar Baron" appeared in German. In the spring of 1786 a translated edition was published, well decorated with copperplate engravings without mention of writer or publisher.

It appeared under the title *Singular Travels, Campaigns and Adventures of Baron Münchhausen as told by himself to a merry circle of friends over a drink.*

The real Baron was grieved that his partiality for telling wonderful stories to a circle of friends had made him a figure of fun to a much wider public.

The braggart was even more irritated when in 1788 the fifth edition of the Oxford publication appeared with almost three times as many stories as the original; and in the German translation the translator provided eight funny stories of his own to amuse the public.

The Baron would have lost his sense of humour had he experienced at first hand, like so many authors, how in the next century discoveries were made of what it was claimed were "absolutely genuine Münchhausen stories".

A cousin, the poet Börres, Baron Münchhausen (1874-1945) made a collection of 300 various Münchhausen editions in which there were tasteless and often offensive jokes.

No one worried much about the old Baron's feelings. Had he not himself lost all credibility when he amused a glittering company, "with the effortless humour of a man of the world", according to a contemporary, telling his tall stories.

Raspe did not get any glory for the Münchhausen stories, despite his success. For him, the stories were an undignified way of making money. He remained anonymous until his death in 1794.

The enlarged edition of *Marvellous Travels* was called *The Surprising Tra-*

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Great cannonballs of fire! Hans Albers as Baron Münchhausen in the 1943 German film. (Photo: Archiv Dr Karkosch)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Increased leisure time blamed for widespread damage to countryside

Increased leisure is one of the main reasons for environmental damage in Germany, according to a survey.

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

BAT. Leisure Research Institute, Hamburg, directly connects leisure pursuits with the state of nature's remaining refuges in West Germany.

The survey lays a lot of blame on the ignorance of people whose hobbies pollute the environment.

The amount of spare time Germans have for leisure has increased by 70 per cent in the past 30 years, says institute director Horst Opaschowski. The number of leisure activities has also increased.

People have more money to spend on hobbies, Professor Opaschowski says, and as car-owners they are more mobile than ever.

For three Germans out of four the automobile is a leisure-mobile.

The quest for nature as a leisure pursuit imposes on nature a sheer quantitative burden that is more than it can take.

Less than one per cent (0.87 per cent) of the Federal Republic of Germany is classified as nature reserve, and leisure activities cover nearly half this area.

Resulting damage has led to expensive leisure facilities being dismantled and to demands in North Rhine-Westphalia for entire forests to be declared out of bounds to hikers and pedestrians.

It is not just a matter of old tin cans littering an idyllic forest clearing. They are merely the tip of the iceberg.

The survey lists an entire catalogue of pollution problems.

Objective damage as identified by experts is compared with subjective views of people affected (and those who are to blame for pollution) as ascertained in a cross-section poll of 2,000 people.

Awareness of the problem is widespread, but so is a feeling of alarm and powerlessness about what to do.

Some politicians, journalists and tourism experts even have visions of an imaginary, inaccessible "juggernaut of environmental destruction."

Sixty-eight per cent of people questioned felt the outlook for nature and leisure pursuits was bleak. Younger people in particular see this as the main problem society faces.

The survey identifies seven cardinal sins in the leisure sector, describing them and how the people polled saw them. They are:

- Encroachment on the countryside. Thirty square metres of land need to be developed per hotel guest, 50 square metres per camper and over 200 square metres per owner of a holiday apartment.

In parts of Austria popular with holidaymakers 250 square kilometres of land a year are developed in this way. Holiday apartments and their commercial exploitation seem to present the most serious problems.

- Pollution of the countryside. Encroachment (58 per cent) and pollution (57 per cent) are the problems nature faces of which people are most keenly conscious, arguably because they are visible.

Plastic bags and tin cans left to litter the countryside can make an eyesore out of even the most breathtaking beauty spot. Fifty thousand tin cans are rusting away on the slopes of the Wetterstein in the Bavarian Alps.

Invisible pollution is just as bad. Sewage seeps into the ground water increasing the coli bacteria count of drinking water in resorts such as Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

Tourists produce on average 400 litres of dirty water a day. The Federal Interior Ministry says the typical "waste producer" is over 35 and has limited formal education.

- Destruction of the countryside. The Alps are criss-crossed by a network of 12,000 ski lifts and 40,000 tracks. They cause erosion that threatens the recreational value of the mountains in the off-season and the summer.

The latest craze is heli-skiing, with downhill skiers speeding down from mountain peaks they have reached by helicopter.

- Atmospheric pollution. Leisure and holiday motoring account for half the vehicle emission that has come under fire as a tree-killer.

Recreational motoring is to blame for 3.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, 40,000 tonnes of sulphur dioxide and 3,800 tonnes of lead a year.

This pollution hits holiday areas particularly hard. Bad Tölz and Rosenheim in Bavaria have carbon monoxide counts comparable with the industrial Ruhr.

- Water pollution. Pleasure cruisers quietly throw over board at night the garbage left behind after festivities.

On the Starnberger See, again in Bavaria, 5,000 private boats jettison so much waste that the water is overfertilised, while oil pumped out of the bilges is lethal for micro-organisms.

Even suntan oil can be a problem. In Austria the fire brigade has been called out more than once to skim entire carpets of suntan oil from the surface of lakes.

- Plants in jeopardy. Leisure pursuits, coupled with industrial emission, are widely felt to be the most serious threat to plant species.

Vegetation research scientists disagree. They say that agriculture is nearly four times more dangerous, but leisure pursuits rank second among categories that threaten the variety of vegetation.

Between 10 and 20 species of animal depend on each variety of plant for survival. Meadows, moors and lakesides — in other words wetlands — are particularly endangered.

- Animals in jeopardy. High-tension and telegraph wires are the most frequent cause of death among large birds, especially storks, while *skiers* scare off wild animals *that then* congregate elsewhere and starve because there isn't enough food to go round.

Even surfing, which might not seem to be environmentally hazardous, is a threat to the breeding grounds and areas where birds and fish gather.

Can leisure pursuits be changed in any way, or is leisure behaviour already changing? Half the 20- to 29-year-olds own up to being partly to blame.

But only 13 per cent of over-60s are conscious of being in any way responsible for the destruction of nature. So the prospects of effective, large-scale change are bleak.

Besides, there is a gap between environmental compatibility and practical behaviour.

Many 16- to 19-year-olds claimed they went in for environmentally acceptable leisure pursuits. Asked what they were, roughly half were unable to come up with a specific, satisfactory answer.

Eighty-one per cent of people questioned frankly admitted they hadn't changed their leisure habits at all. So what can be done? Beefing up the law is felt not to be the answer.

Only 13 per cent of people questioned felt it was for the government alone to take remedial action. Thirty-eight per cent felt the individual must first keep his own house in order.

Eighty-one per cent again say they are prepared to accept limits to their leisure activities for the sake of the environment.

Fifty per cent even claimed to be willing to help with environmental conservation if the opportunity arose.

They visualised themselves as helping to lay out lawns, gardens, parks and playgrounds.

The survey suggests keeping the public better informed on environmental affairs, appealing to their sense of responsibility, threatening bans and punishment and providing attractive leisure alternatives.

To this might be added voluntary self-restraint by the leisure industry for the environment's sake, promotion of the pushbike a mode of urban transport and greater flexibility in holiday arrangements and schedules.

Rainer Stache

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 5 January 1986)

Continued from page 11

vels and Adventures of Baron Munchausen.

The identity of the translator of the stories back into German was also concealed and not disclosed until his death. It was the poet and independent scholar Gottfried August Bürger, well known for his ballad, *Lenore*. He tried to make poetry popular and comprehensible.

Bürger was not paid, according to a letter he wrote in anger to his Göttingen publisher Johann Christian Dieterich in 1791 which was not made public until much later.

He wrote: "I have handed over the Münchhausen stories and so on to you and I have done many kindnesses for you that you would have had to pay anyone else for. Not much of the credit was mine, but I cannot help feeling you earned much from them."

It was not usual for publishers to pay their writers entirely in cash. Dieterich paid Bürger the agreed fee for his labours partly in kind. Literary historians maintain that at the time this was not unusual for a free-lance writer.

Hartmut Alexy

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 4 January 1986)

■ MEDICINE

Telephone deafness test for children wins prize

A German doctor has been awarded a prize for developing a test aimed at discovering if very young children are slightly deaf.

There are standard tests for babies, but they are not always effective and many parents don't bother with them.

The new test is simple, cheap and easily available. It uses a telephone and a test booklet. There have been more than 100,000 tests since testing began a year ago.

Early discovery of damaged hearing is essential if treatment is to be successful. Sometimes when a child's hearing disability is not discovered, it will lead to stone deafness. Then it is too late.

Ear, nose and throat specialist Hans-Joachim Radü, 39, of Münster University has won the 1985 Hufeland Prize, worth DM20,000, for his telephone test.

The prize is named after Christoph Wilhelm Hufeland, 1762—1836, a pioneer of modern preventive health care.

Bad hearing is not just a matter of not being able to hear properly. It also damages a child's entire personality development.

A brain that is still developing needs sounds from its surroundings to build up a pattern of understanding its environment.

If this process is upset, the child will learn to talk only slowly and probably badly.

It can't understand others and has difficulty in being understood by them. It withdraws and grows aggressive as it drifts into isolation.

These are often children who find it difficult to concentrate and have trouble with reading and writing at school.

The link between speech and hearing is self-evident when a child is deaf. Poor hearing in contrast tends to be misinterpreted.

Partly deaf children tend to be dismissed as late developers or impaired in speech or behaviour.

A Hamburg association of parents and friends of children with impaired hearing says 42 per cent of minor to moderate hearing defects are not even suspected before the child is three.

Proper hearing tests are carried out in only 12 per cent of cases where a child's hearing is suspected.

Many families are torn to and fro by their own, unqualified observations and still less qualified advice such as: "Wait and see. Einstein only learnt to talk when he was four."

Dr Radü's prize-winning telephone test is a welcome addition to the somewhat ineffective system of spotting impaired hearing among children that is one of the eight prescribed health checks for babies (and parents don't always bother with them).

The telephone test is simple, inexpensive and readily available. School teachers, kindergarten staff and parents can test children without difficulty anytime, anywhere.

All they need to do is a test booklet, a telephone and few minutes to spare. This is how it works:

Dial Münster (area code 0251) 11505 and you will first hear six test notes. They show that the line is in order.

Ten one-syllable words are then spoken at intervals of 10 seconds. They are words three-year-olds know and they are spoken for each ear separately.

Children aged up to about six can use a chart to point to the word spoken: "mouse," for instance.

Six- to 12-year-olds can simply repeat the word. Juveniles and adults, who can test their hearing too, underline the word in a list.

Their rating can be checked by comparing the results with a table in the booklet.

Münster telephone exchange has provided this service since January 1985. By November there had been over 112,000 callers. So there is certainly a demand for it.

Dr Radü says many adults are chary of taking a hearing test because they don't really want to know the worst — regardless whether they or the children are suspected of poor hearing.

Impaired hearing is still felt to be a serious handicap, Dr Radü says, and is nowhere near as readily accepted as poor eyesight, for which the remedy, glasses, have come to be regarded as a fashion accessory.

The telephone test should help to persuade people to overcome their reluctance and check their hearing once and for all.

The test has been checked on hundreds of people with poor and normal hearing and found to be reliable. The telephone voice cannot be heard (and the test is failed) by anyone whose hearing is impaired by more than 30 decibels.

Then, says Dr Radü, it is high time to book an appointment with an ear, nose and throat specialist.

On average it takes 10 months in Germany for a suspected case of poor hearing to be confirmed, and children have to wait a further five months for a suitable hearing aid.

There aren't enough specialists or facilities. "For children with defective hearing," the Hamburg association says, "financial shortfalls result in shortfalls in development and experience that can never be made good."

Yet all that is needed to confirm or dispel suspicions is a telephone and a booklet.

Charlotte Kerner

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 27 December 1985)

Fat people get an insurance ultimatum

DIE WELT

Bavarian Welfare Minister Franz Neubauer plans to penalise fat people insured in government-backed health schemes. He says the extra weight costs the health insurance cash. Offenders must either slim or pay.

Prevention is better than cure (true). His plan is billed as a health policy offensive (also true, and many people are likely to feel offended).

Herr Neubauer naturally says what he has in mind is a kind of no claims bonus for people of normal weight and not a penalty for the overweight.

But he also points out that 57 per cent of Germans are overweight, which is to blame for complaints ranging from high blood pressure, gout and arteriosclerosis to fatty liver, gall stones and bone damage.

As scientists do not agree on what weights are normal, the proposal seems sure to create weighty problems.

Herr Neubauer has bad news for smokers too. They must either work on their own or leave the room to smoke, he says.

He wants a scientific survey of the threat to non-smokers from smokers at work and in the home. Thirty-four per cent of 11- to 80-year-old Germans smoke.

Alcohol also comes in for Ministerial criticism. About 30 per cent of Germans drink alcohol daily, and too much alcohol leads to cirrhosis of the liver, gout, cardiac and circulatory diseases and physical and mental decline.

But Herr Neubauer has no plans to penalise smokers and drinkers by charging them higher health insurance premiums. You can't prove whether people smoke or drink, he explains.

More money must, he feels, be spent on preventive medicine. DM600m for preventive medicine is a drop in the ocean compared with DM119.4bn for curative medicine.

He says preventive medicine ought to be made a compulsory subject at medical college and health education a compulsory subject at primary school.

(Die Welt, Bonn, 7 January 1986)

Pain, pain, go away; another pain has come to play

Everyone must have discovered at some time or other that pain can be an effective painkiller. Toothache can be much less troublesome if it hurts somewhere else in the body too.

German and US research scientists have carried out experiments to test this hypothesis in greater detail.

They are Rolf-Detlef Treede of Hamburg University department of physiology and Andrew Chen, an American pain specialist.

Their human guinea pigs were subjected to either constant but harmless pain or repeated and equally harmless electric shocks.

The lasting pain was caused by strapping the arm with the device used to take blood pressure. Electric shock treatment was given to the skin of the other arm.

The volunteers filled in a specially devised questionnaire indicating how severe they felt the pain to be, the two doctors write in their article in *Pain* magazine.

When the other arm was subjected to constant pain the electric shocks hurt exactly 50 per cent less. They were, to use the widespread phrase, only half as bad as otherwise.

deutscher forschungsdienst

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 28 December 1985)

■ FRONTIERS

Conflict between demands of an industrial state and the call of the muezzin



"Allahu akbar!" (Allah is Great), the muezzin proclaims, summoning the faithful to prayer. He does so not from the minaret of a mosque but in a first-storey apartment in a Berlin tenement block.

He is surrounded by a group of Moslems who have just been through their washing ritual and are gathered for evening prayers on a winter afternoon.

They kneel and prostrate themselves several times toward Mecca, listening devoutly to the imam as he recites passages from the Koran.

Silence then reigns. All that can be heard is the crackle of burning logs in the fire that warms the prayer room — and odd words from the Koran school next door where two dozen girls are reciting verses from the Koran.

The barely furnished first-floor prayer room in Boppstrasse, Berlin, and the Koran school attached to the mosque is the religious centre of the Berlin Islamic Federation.

The federation claims to represent 27 Islamic organisations in the western part of the divided city. They range from radical Shi'ites to moderate Sunni Moslems.

Most are Turkish and registered as societies with resplendent names such as the Sultan Ahmed Mosque, the Mevlana Mosque or the Mehmed Akif Mosque.

Their origin is indicated by the famous Turkish mosques after which they are named, but Arab, Iranian and Pakistani groups are also affiliated to the federation.

It is headed by Imam Nail Dural, a one-time parliamentary candidate of the Islamic fundamentalist party, the National Salvation Party, which is now banned in Turkey. He came to Berlin in 1980.

Dural is interested in religious affairs and free-style wrestling. He and a few friends set up the federation that year to counteract assimilation and the accompanying decline in religious belief among his Islamic brethren.

The federation's statutes state its purpose as being that of "intensifying and spreading the true faith, belief in Allah, the One God."

More prayer rooms are to be set up to promote this objective, but the most ambitious project is a plan to build a large mosque.

Coloured blueprints and maps of the proposed site, on Moritzplatz in the Berlin inner suburb of Kreuzberg, line the walls of the federation's office next door to the mosque.

All they still need is the money, as a member succinctly puts it.

But the federation's main aim continues to be that of reaching Islamic youngsters, who are particularly susceptible to Western ideas.

Trained Islamic scholars ought, it is felt, to be hired to give religious instruction to the 28,000 Turkish children attending public schools in Berlin.

Instruction was to be given in accordance with curricula drawn up by the Islamic community, in other words the federation.

As religious instruction is the responsibility of the churches in Berlin and Bremen, which is not the case in other *Länder*, and has to be given by teachers nominated by them, the federation felt it stood a fair chance of its 1980 application for Islamic religious instruction at Berlin schools being granted.

Walter Rasch, Berlin's FDP Education Senator at the time, preferred to stall or, as he put it, give the subject "dilatory attention."

Some groups affiliated to the federation were radical fundamentalists, while the federation as a whole was totally lacking in uniformity.

The federation from the outset attributed this delay to string-pulling by the Turkish government.

Ankara had indeed responded to the establishment of the federation by setting up a Turkish Islamic Union and appointing a religious affairs attaché to to the Turkish consulate-general in Berlin.

His job was to teach Turkish workers in Berlin the "true belief" — and keep a close eye on fundamentalist and pan-Islamic opposition outside Turkey.

New prayer rooms were set up in Neukölln and Tegel, and a third in the old building on Columbiadamm that Kaiser Wilhelm I as King of Prussia donated to the Ottoman Empire over a century ago for use as a cemetery.

An Islamic association affiliated to the federation had first to be expelled from the building, which is the property of the Turkish government.

Teachers were sent from Turkey to Berlin for three-year terms to give Turkish children "cultural and allied instruction." Attendance is optional; lessons are given on several afternoons a week at public schools.

Religious affairs form part of the curriculum, but not religious instruction. Ankara has since vied with the federation for permission to run religious instruction courses at Berlin primary schools.

Leading members of the federation say the view of Islam taken in lessons supervised by the Turkish government is biased and solely in keeping with Turkish government interests.

Besides, it is most undemocratically organised. The imam is in the Turkish government's pay and despite the funds provided only seven to eight per cent of Turks in Berlin use Islamic facilities run by the Turkish authorities.

Between 25 and 30 per cent of the 120,000 Muslims in the city are claimed to take part in religious activities sponsored by members of the federation, which is financed solely by donations.

So say Nail Dural's followers. Pundits feel this figure is too high.

Education Senator Hanna-Renate Laurien finds the two applications for permission to supervise Islamic religious instruction at Berlin schools a headache.

The federation can hardly be given preference because of the effect that would have on relations between Bonn and Ankara, yet it cannot be ignored because it represents a substantial number of Muslims in the city.

So the matter will continue to be shelved for the time being, officials say.

Both sides know what that means as far as they are concerned. The Berlin Islamic Federation and the Turkish Islamic Union plan to intensify their religious activities.

The struggle for the hearts and minds of the faithful is to be stepped up. German teachers feel the children are the losers, spending their afternoons cloistered away from German kids under strict supervision at Koran schools.

Turkish children are already at a linguistic disadvantage. This segregation makes them even less capable of following lessons in German, with the result that their grades (and chances of finding jobs) are even worse.

Devout Muslims such as those who attend the service described above will hear nothing of such arguments. They unswervingly abide by their customs and beliefs.

Some of them stay for a last few moments on their knees, mumbling a final "Allahu akbar" before standing up and leaving the room.

They then retire to nearby Turkish bars for a glass of tea and a hookah, leaving the Turkish girls in their white headscarves at the Koran school next door still beavering away at their scriptures.

Ralf Georg Reuth

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 28 December 1985)

Continued from page 10

journalist explained that he had first heard the word among German-speaking Jews in Israel.

This explanation failed to satisfy the complainer, who only admitted why he objected to the word when he was told point-blank that the reason he disliked it was because it was Yiddish.

It would be an appalling mistake to write about Yiddish without as much as a mention of Jewish humour. Few languages are as well suited to telling jokes as Yiddish, although the Jewish accent used when telling them in German strikes the wrong note.

So let us end with a couple of typical Jewish jokes translated from the original Yiddish:

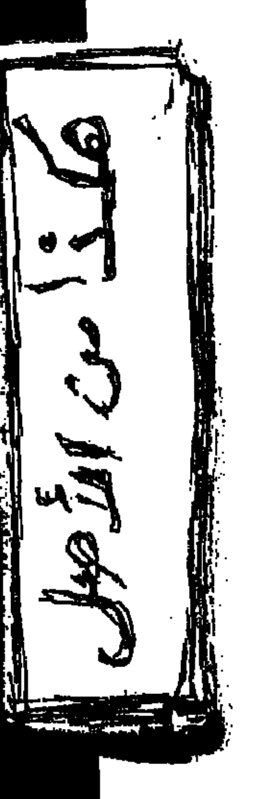
"A rich man tells his servant: "That beggar breaks my heart. I just can't bear to see such misery. Throw him out!"

Moses asks his friend how telegraphy works. "Imagine instead of the wire a dog with its head in Kaunas and its tail in Vilna," he is told. "You pull its tail in Vilna and can hear the bark in Kaunas."

"I see," Moses says, "but how does it work without wire?" "Exactly the same, but without the dog."

Knut Barrey

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 January 1986)



■ HORIZONS

Taxpayer fleeced, says reluctant farmer

Frankfurter Neue Presse

Every year when spring comes round Günter Röttgering, 48, from Münster has to work overtime.

He is a partner in a filter manufacturing factory and week after week he used to cut the grass on an 8,500 square metre piece of land at his home.

It was too much effort so he decided to bring nature in to aid him. A couple of sheep took over the job of cutting the grass.

Over three years ten sheep kept the grass short. Suddenly he found himself "in the thick of a lunatic asylum farce".

Röttgering is, against his will, a farmer. The Westphalia Farmers Cooperative went to pains to bring about his job change.

With incredible logic they concluded that maintaining the sheep on such a large plot of land implied the land was being used for agricultural purposes.

The law lays down that he is farming and must be a member of the Cooperative — whether he liked it or not.

In order to ease the burden of the annual contribution of DM193 the Cooperative by return of post officially opened up the complications of agricultural multiplication tables.

Bonn would pay DM43 of the annual contribution, leaving DM150 for Röttgering to pay himself.

For each of the ten sheep involved Brussels provided DM30. That added up to DM300.

If Röttgering had a farmer's cunning he would have ended up with a subsidy surplus of DM150 — with only ten sheep.

But that is not all.

There are the social benefits that the Cooperative has at the ready for the stubborn "farmer" and they are lavish.

If he puts his back out of joint looking after his sheep he gets medical treatment with a period in a health resort — all for nothing.

If he is made ill and has to go into hospital he does not have to worry about his flock. The Cooperative will provide a stand-in.

The surprise packet of social benefits includes injury money, re-training and, according to need, various pensions. If his ram goes for him and sends him to the hereafter the Cooperative pays compensation and the funeral expenses. Günter Röttgering complained that it was "completely idiotic". He said: "I am adequately insured, and anyway my sheep are absolutely safe. In my case what has happened is a pure waste of tax-payers' money."



Non-farmer Röttgering and four-legged lawnmowers ... he wants short grass, not grants from Brussels.

(Photo: Markus Beck)

Bonn has to provide DM400m annually to keep the 19 Farmers' Cooperative all over the country afloat.

Röttgering suggested that because membership had dropped from its 1982 level of 2.4 million to two million the Farmers' Cooperatives were "after every amateur farmer."

The number of farmers included in cooperatives is glaringly out of proportion to agriculture generally in the country.

There are at present 370,000 agricultural undertakings in the Federal Republic. Cooperatives official Count Carl von Westerholt said: "There are nationwide two million members which means that between 20 and 30 per cent have holdings of the size of Günter Röttgering."

Röttgering is annoyed at this way of getting farmers into cooperatives. He maintains that it is a waste of subsidies to the disadvantage of real farmers. He intends to go to court, "if necessary to the Constitutional Court."

Prime Minister of Lower Saxony Ernst Albrecht obviously thinks quite differently. According to his press office he is quite willing to draw subsidies from Brussels.

Werner Paczian

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 13 December 1985)

Bulldozer driver fights to keep his treasure trove

DIE WELT

A Lübeck bulldozer driver is not sure if he is a millionaire or not: Jürgen Köpsell, 44, was demolishing a villa in Lübeck's old city in June 1984 when the shovel of his machine unearthed a cache of gold and silver coins estimated to be worth 3.6 million marks.

Ownership is being disputed between Köpsell; the firm which then employed him; and the *Land* of Schleswig-Holstein.

A court in Kiel ruled last June that Köpsell, as the finder, was entitled to half the proceeds — that is 1.8 million marks — but the other two parties have gone to appeal. The company was so upset at not getting the treasure of 350 gold coins and 20,000 silver coins dating back to the 14th century that it sacked him. The *Land* government tried to buy him off with a bottle of schnapps and 6,000 marks, but his lawyer referred to paragraph 984 of the civil code which refers to the rights of the person actually finding something in a case where the original owner cannot be established. Schleswig-Holstein says it and the firm are the finders. The firm maintains that Köpsell was obliged to hand the coins over to it.

But the court found otherwise. It said Köpsell had found them 20 centimetres under the ground, under the masonry, and not in the demolition area. He had not from the beginning systematically hunted for any treasure.

The firm got mad and fired Köpsell. For a year the father of six lived on dole money of 246 marks a week.

The legal process has so far cost 130,000 marks and it could well cost more than half a million marks after the appeal. But Köpsell, who last autumn was hired by another firm, isn't worried. He has been granted help with costs.

"I have learned to be patient," he says. "Maybe next Christmas we'll be celebrating in our own house."

He dreams of a trip to the Caribbean, of owning a better car, and of having his own small firm.

There is one thing he would certainly do if he does get the money: throw a party for his new work colleagues.

But until that day comes, this millionaire-in-waiting will have to bulldoze on each day.

Ewald Revermann

(Die Welt, Bonn, 31 December 1985)

Will he own his own bulldozer one day? . . . treasure finder Köpsell at work. (Photo: Reyermann)

Silent march by old people gets results

An old people's home in Soltau, between Hamburg and Hanover, practises a form of democratic action that gets results. Residents of the home and staff members discuss issues at regular council meetings and decide on action both within the home and without.

Their greatest success so far has been in getting the government of Schleswig-Holstein nullify a regulation requiring people absent from a home for six weeks or more to lose their place.

This was the result of a case where a woman from the Soltau home broke her pelvis and went to hospital for three months. After she was released, the authorities told her she had lost her place and she must find another home.

The head of the Soltau home, Günter Viets, took back the women despite the regulations, but the woman died a few days later, probably from grief over the whole affair.

So the council decided to act. They organised 90 old people with home-made banners and they marched silently through Soltau to the market place.

The Lower Saxony minister responsible for social services, Hermann Schnipkoweit, hurried from the *Land* capital of Hanover, beat his breast and muttered about the bureaucrats. But the six-week regulation shortly afterwards was discontinued.

Since then, the administrators of the home have come to regard themselves as a social conscience for old people in homes everywhere.

They have railed against planned reductions in the state spending allowance for old people and have approached Chancellor Kohl to try and allay fears that people will be shoved off to the cheapest homes available.

The next campaign is to be at the Euro-Parliament in Strasbourg — against what they say is European-wide understaffing of homes with qualified people.

The Soltau council comprises five elected representatives of the staff plus seven elected speakers for the residents. Other residents have voting rights.

Although the external successes are the most spectacular, the main concern is the running of the home itself, and it is easy to understand why the residents are enthusiastic about the home.

The democratic brush sweeps in broad strokes: on the first day of every month, the meals are discussed.

Other topics are how the home should take part in the life of the city, when the next flea market should be held and how, for example, to help one resident who has outgoings for the month of 266 marks and an income from the social welfare authorities of 144 marks to meet them.

The home has special arrangements for holidays whereby residents get a week off. This means they can sleep in any do what they like, ignoring meal times, normally a strong regulating factor in institutional life.

There are special arrangements for birthday meals — all the residents are invited and can take advantage of an a la carte menu.

Josef Schmidt

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, Essen, 4 January 1986)